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MELISSA PENFOLD

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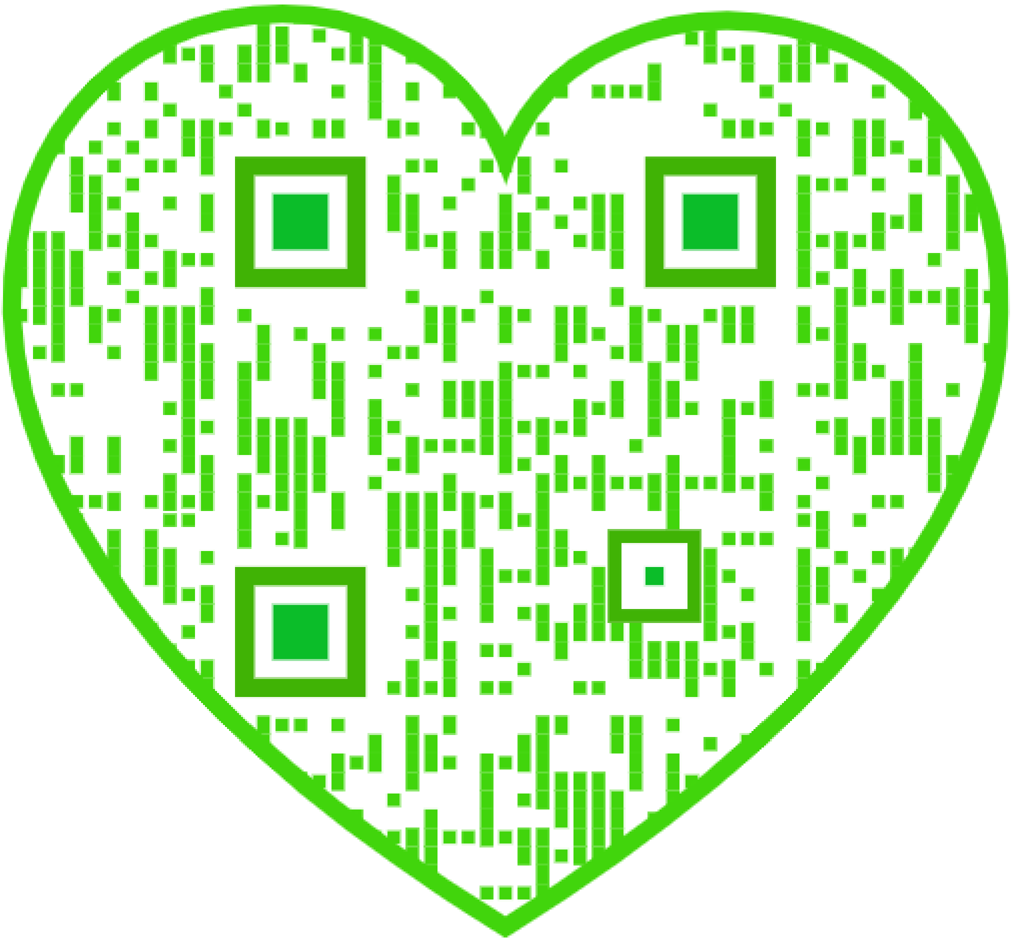

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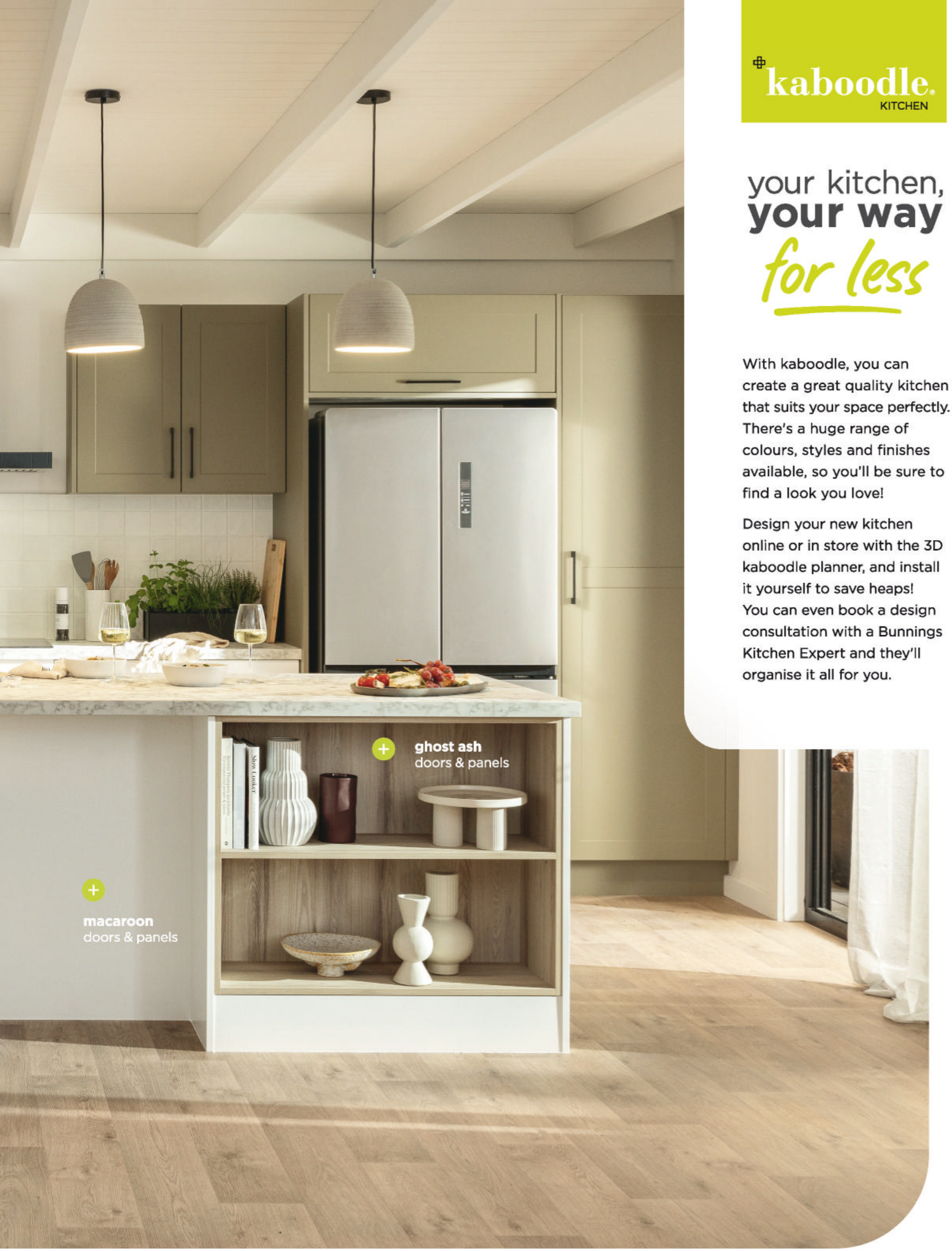

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Photograph by Pablo Veiga.

Beautiful Bathrooms & Laundries

MAY

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On our cover
Melissa Penfold's harbourside living room is a study in considered interiors full of personality, carefully curated over time; page 16. Photography by Abbie Mellé.

Design Your World

Autograph Fabric Sofa in Dark Olive

Freedom.com.au

FREEDOM

HOME OF SOFAS

Tanya's photograph by Kristina Šoljo. Hair and make-up by Sam Powell.
Tanya wears Oroton blazer and Dissh white linen vest and pants.

Hello and *welcome* to the May issue of *House & Garden.*

As always, the year is flying by. I am writing this from Milan, a city I am so fond of – I have been lucky enough to visit many times over the past decade. It is this time of year when designers and companies from around the world show us what they have been working on, which shapes the trends that end up in our homes. It's always great to run into Australians, not only taking in the installations but showing their work to the world – one day, we stumbled across Melbourne lighting designer Ross Gardam's beautiful work in the busy Brera area. We will bring you what we've seen and what will make it to Australia in upcoming issues.

Our fabulous cover and upfront story is the home of interiors expert Melissa Penfold (page 16). I love that Melissa grew up in some seriously stylish homes decorated by her mother and grandmother, yet can style from luxe to less and has plenty of advice for making the most of an interior on a budget. As readers will know, Melissa and Isabella Walker-Smith are the go-to sourcebook for all that's good and where to buy in interiors, whatever your budget. See their guide to buying lamps on page 61 for more.

Have you noticed that no one sets the table anymore? It's all about tablescaping. What I love about the concept (and it is not a new one!) is that you can mix older treasured pieces with contemporary buys to create a warm and inviting moment for family and guests. How many of us have pieces in the sideboard that are never used? It's time to get them out and have some fun at the table. Once you have done that you may not have as much time to cook! But we can help there too. Turn to our entertaining section on page 43 for Amanda Cordony's fast and healthy recipes.

Meanwhile, our stylist Sophie Wilson has curated some covetable pieces to buy for your mother or that special maternal figure in your life this Mother's Day (page 52). She has colour-coded them in the season's loveliest shades and there are lots to choose from, with maybe a special treat for you at the same time.

We spend a lot of time in the bathroom and laundry, and these rooms were once an afterthought. Not anymore! With property prices constantly on the rise, every room in the house should be maximising its potential, – even the once-humble laundry. Go to page 165 for some well-thought-out and beautifully designed spaces to inspire your renovation.

As always, we have an excellent selection of houses for you to tour, from traditional with a new contemporary outlook in the Carole Whiting-designed house on page 72, to an art-filled family home in Subiaco, Perth, on page 124. Enjoy the issue!

Tanya Buchanan

TANYA BUCHANAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WISH LIST

1 Santa Maria Novella Acqua **eau de parfum** (50ml), $285, Libertine Parfumerie.

2 'Birmingham' **ballpoint pen** in Pinstripe, $305, W.J. Sanders.

3 'La Grande Dame' 2018 **cuvée**, $348, Veuve Clicquot.

4 *The Rose Book* **hardback** by Phaidon Editors, $69.95, Phaidon.

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H&G social

Our posts that made your month.

The sale listing of Steve Cordony's Rosedale farm gathered clicks on Instagram; a pretty, perennial garden was popular on Pinterest; meanwhile, Facebookers were curious about Todd McKenney's move to Melbourne.

Facebook facebook.com/australianhouseandgarden
Highlights from each issue plus links to tours of our favourite homes.

Instagram @houseandgarden
View the most inspirational images of the month from *H&G* headquarters and out and about.

Pinterest pinterest.com.au/houseandgardenau
Picture-perfect images from our pages and sensational products to covet.

LEXINGTON WALK-IN CLOSET
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Walls painted Dulux Antique White USA. Gainsborough library chair, Classic Chair. 19th-century artwork, Christie's, London. Vintage commode, La Maison. Glass lamp, Isabella Walker-Smith Collection. Cushions in Ascraft Textiles 'Rubelli' silk fabric and linen. Artwork by Bernadette Smith. Vintage tapestry, Vickers & Hoad. 'Pratt' armchair, Boyd Blue. Coffee table and drum stool, both Orient House. Arteriors 'Levon' lamp, Boyd Blue. Wingback armchair upholstered in Westbury Textiles linen, O'Hehir & Sons. Rug, Cadrys. Floors in Tiger Grey sisal, Natural Floorcovering Centres.

PATRICK WHITE
THE VIVISECTOR
THINKING, FAST AND SLOW
DANIEL KAHNEMAN
Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson
THE PRINCETON ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
POETRY & POETICS

Natural INSTINCT

As style expert Melissa Penfold's new book, *Natural Living by Design*, hits bookstore shelves, we take a look at how she applies her design principles to her own space.

STORY *Eliza O'Hare* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Abbie Mellé*

Melissa Penfold's harbourside apartment in Sydney's east is exactly how you would imagine it to be. Welcome to Melissa-Land, an earthy, caramel-rich space, layered in tone and texture (and throws and cushions) on the fourth floor of a modernist apartment block designed by superstar 60s architect Douglas Snelling. It is the most elevated example of each of the six essential elements of decorating she shares in her latest book, which is about to hit the stands as her global followers (more than 320k of them) are busy pre-ordering copies. Her rules are: Ease, Flow, Light, Nature, Timelessness and Awe, which translate to practical things like bringing in lots of daylight; sticking to natural materials, bringing nature and greenery into our homes, creating lots of storage (because mess is stress); and using colour meaningfully.

A quick scan of the apartment reveals a high-functioning, multi-use space operating as an office and writing retreat, city crash pad, guest apartment and sometimes, an off-site party location. She recently hosted a party for 40 here on a steamy February day for her grandson Rupert's christening, and turned it into a bijoux day club for the guests, with planters overflowing with ice and bottles of champagne, ▶

OPPOSITE Graphic abstract artwork, Horgans. Vintage framed artworks from the collection of Nina Griscom, New York. Cushions, Paloma Living. Indian print cushion, Shack. Throws, L&M Home. Handwoven wool and silk rug, Robyn Cosgrove Rugs.

“I am big on rotation – everything moves with me from house to house, room to room.” MELISSA PENFOLD, OWNER

wall-to-wall vases of florals, platters of chicken sandwiches and a dining table stuffed with a selection of celebratory cakes from the Sydney baking institution Flour and Stone. It’s just more proof of her powers of transformation and how she can see boundless potential in one space.

It was the mid-2000s when she went on the hunt for an apartment and at the first inspection, with her great friend designer Cameron Kimber and daughter Isabella in tow, this one felt right. “I loved the aspect, the elevation and the light as soon I walked in,” she recalls. “We just looked at each other and said ‘Fabulous!’”

“I love apartments because there’s a feeling of safety and security that you don’t necessarily get in a house. I feel very secure and comforted here. My advice is to buy on the third or fourth floor – no higher than the fifth – because I like to look out and frame the view with the treetops. And I do not like to live in the sky – like being on the 20th floor.”

It’s a simple space – three bedrooms, a shared living-dining space and a separate kitchen, and while Melissa is not a modernist, she saw sound elements in the building. “This appealed to me because it had a separate kitchen I could lock off, floor-to-ceiling windows and a balcony that ran the full length of the apartment. I took all of the ceiling lights out, put in table lamps, knocked out a wall and put in a Murphy bed but not much more. It’s very thoughtfully designed. Flow is so important and even though this is very small, you can create such efficient living spaces in small areas – and this is a great example of that.

“I painted the whole thing Dulux Antique White USA – a warm white with a bit of ochre in it. Then I put the sisal (flooring) down because if you get your walls and floor right, you could be sitting on a box and be happy. But if you don’t have the basics right, nothing will ever look good.

“I was brought up with the most incredibly extravagant mother and grandmother and, as much as I love them, I think I had a violent reaction to both of them and their extravagance. I also have a tough businessman as a dad, so I was probably more like him, and I think I was always looking for a deal. Still am. I always buy my fruit and vegetables on sale, and my flowers are all from the grocery store – I just pick whatever is abundant.”

There’s obviously some design yin-yang going on here, around finding good pieces that last forever but don’t cost a bomb, and it feels like the design mantra ‘buy once, buy well’ is back, which is a bit of a step away from some of the flashy, frivolous and obviously short-lived interiors we have seen lately. In contrast, Melissa has had some of her most-loved pieces for more than 40 years.

“With my first pay check I bought an old, French wooden mirror with the most beautiful patina. My second piece was a Gainsborough library chair and I had a slipcover made by an upholsterer, and that has been copied by everyone. I’ve never paid more than $500 for a sofa. Ever. This one I got from Cameron Kimber, who was getting rid of it. My dining table is actually an outdoor table I got for a couple of hundred dollars at an auction but you know, I can chuck anything on it and it works. Everything here has got a reason and nothing has cost a lot.”

It’s not just picking furniture pieces at random, “I have a strong eye,” she explains, and she has built her career on knowing what works and where.

“I am a collector and I decorate around collections. I would never get a piece of fabric and do a scheme. I just buy things – my antenna is always up. I never know what I’m looking for, but if something appeals to me, I will buy it, put it in a room and it works. And I am big on rotation, everything moves with me from house to house, room to room,” says Melissa.

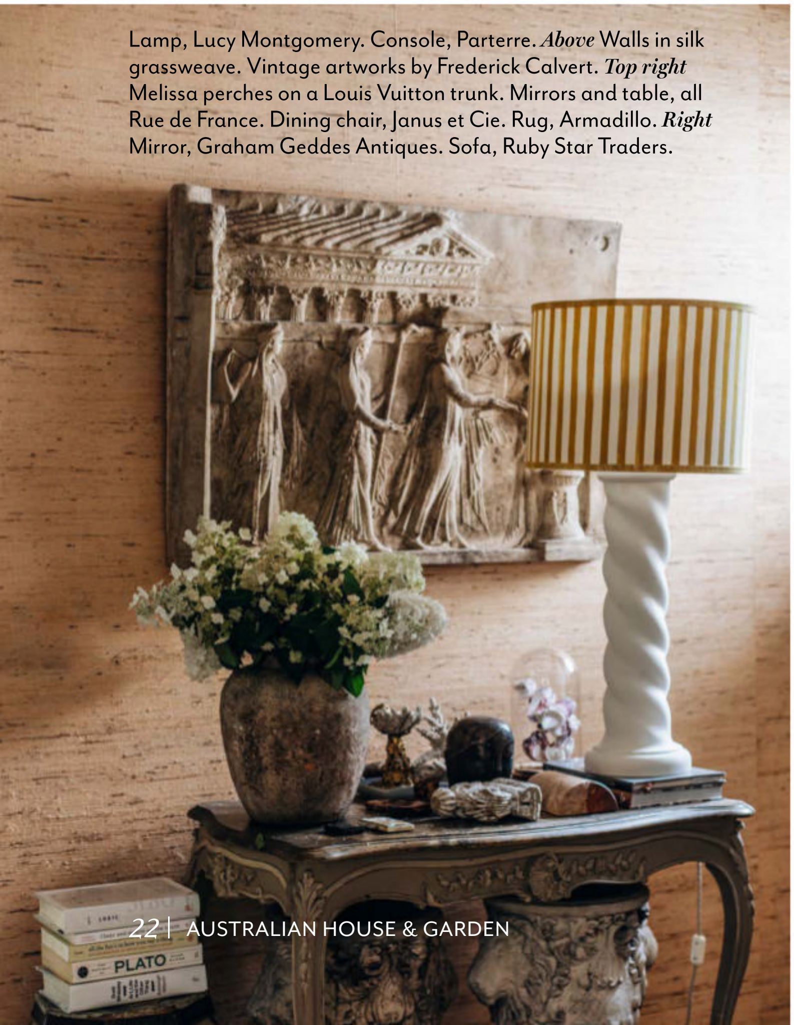
It’s a lifelong edit, artfully arranged and regularly rearranged, and while the furniture and artworks may not always be new, they are used in a new way.

As the apartment has taken shape over the years and shifted purpose and furniture has moved in and out, Melissa has come to realise you can have enough.

“You know, this book is about all that. I can lock this up and it sort of looks after itself. It’s easy. And I think that’s hugely appealing. I could buy something bigger and possibly, you know, more wow. And I’ve thought about it but really, this is enough.” ▶

***Melissa Penfold:** melissapenfold.com.* Natural Living by Design *by Melissa Penfold (Vendome Press, $69.99). Available from good bookstores and online from April 29.*

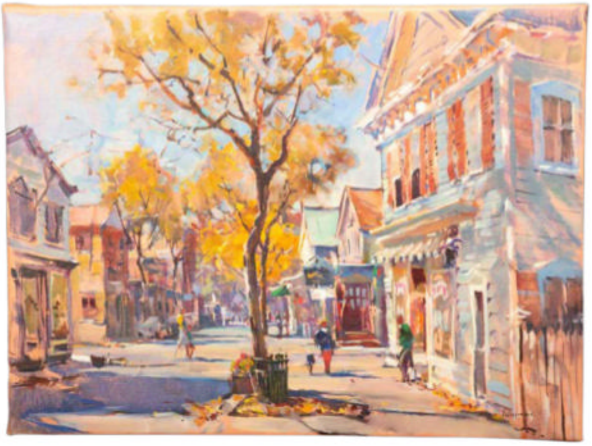
DINING Dining table, Lawsons. Antique high-relief plaque. Arteriors ‘Parasol’ rattan lamp, Boyd Blue. Antique glass lamp, Isabella Walker-Smith. ‘Pavilion’ armchairs, Pecare Trading. Antique Chinese cabinet, Orient House. Dining chairs and vintage clock, bought at auction. Antique stool with new canvas cover, Ambience Upholstery. **POWDER ROOM** Wall in ‘Sinharaja’ wallpaper, Milton & King. Basin and tapware, Parisi.



Lamp, Lucy Montgomery. Console, Parterre. ***Above*** Walls in silk grassweave. Vintage artworks by Frederick Calvert. ***Top right*** Melissa perches on a Louis Vuitton trunk. Mirrors and table, all Rue de France. Dining chair, Janus et Cie. Rug, Armadillo. ***Right*** Mirror, Graham Geddes Antiques. Sofa, Ruby Star Traders.

LIFE & STYLE

A few of Melissa Penfold's favourite things...



FIRST HOME My first childhood home was a big, white, beautiful, fairytale kind of house in Sydney's Upper North Shore, with a massive green garden in a neighbourhood full of kids on bicycles and a gorgeous park opposite.

I'D LOVE TO VISIT... In the summer of 2023, I spent a few months in upstate New York and the Hamptons. I'd love to return. There's something very magnetic about these areas. I love the arcadian setting of forests, lakes and rolling green fields, windswept dunes and pounding ocean surf. Particularly, the Hudson Valley town of Millbrook (1), an oasis of Greek revival homes, which is a creative Eden, relentlessly creating design that's consumed around the world. A deep breath to be found by anyone who visits.

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT Via Carota, West Village, Manhattan, for its legendary polpette (meatballs), ragu pappardelle and giant leafy green salad with sherry vinaigrette. My family are always the best dining companions.

DREAM CAR Anything someone else is driving.

FAVOURITE ARTISTS Cy Twombly, as well as New York artists such as Christopher Flach, John Rosis and Kinuko Imai Hoffman.

ON MY BEDSIDE My new book, *Natural Living by Design* (5), shows what a powerful force design can be in boosting our physical and emotional wellbeing. And how easy it is to harness the different aspects of healthy, life-enhancing natural living – light, flow, ease, awe, nature and timelessness – so we can each flourish in our own little sanctuaries. Everyday. And change the world in a better way.

WHAT INSPIRES ME? Purity, simplicity and warmth. Houses for living, not just for show.

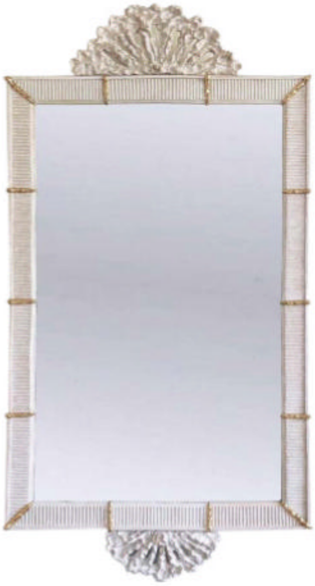
I LOVE TO COOK... Hearty soups (2).

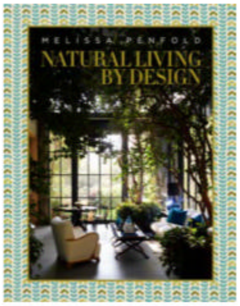
FAVOURITE FRAGRANCE Anything by Santa Maria Novella (3).

I LOVE A VASE FULL OF... Queen Anne's lace, copper beech leaves, and smoke bush (6). Earthy and sculptural things with movement.

ON MY WISHLIST A few towering cypress pine trees in statement pots for my balcony to create an intimate view of greenery from inside.

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT... Mirrors (4). They double everything you own, reflect views and add instant sparkle. **H&G**





> "Mirrors double everything you own, reflect views and add instant sparkle."
>
> MELISSA PENFOLD

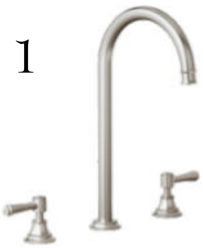
Photograph by Anson Smart. Styling by Sophie Wilson. (1) *Millbrook* by Peter Williams. (2) Photograph by Con Poulos. (4) Ceramic mirror by Eve Kaplan.

Stylescape
with SOPHIE WILSON

On the hunt for practical yet beautiful bathroom inspiration? Our resident stylist has curated the finest finishes and fixtures.

TOP FIVE *basin mixers*

1



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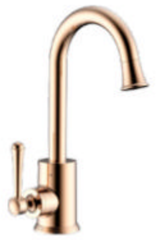

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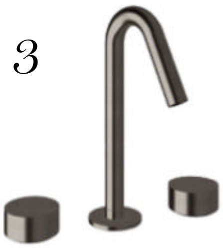

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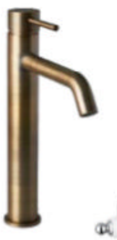

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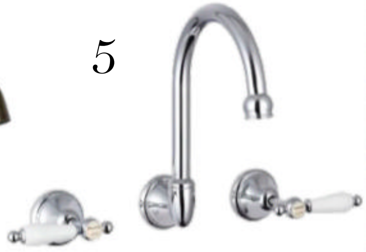


1 'Kingsley' **bench-mounted set** in Brushed Nickel, $674.70, ABI Interiors. **2** Posh 'Canterbury' gooseneck **basin mixer tap** in Polished Brass Gold, $422, Reece. **3** Milli 'Pure' **basin set** in PVD Brushed Gunmetal, $1055, Reece. **4** Tall **basin mixer** in Antique Brass, $555, Yabby. **5** Mondella 'Maestro' lever handle **wall sink set** in Chrome, $134, Bunnings. **PORTRAIT Basket**, Dusty Luxe. Fruit **bowl**, Robert Gordon. Green **bowl**, French Knot. **Vase**, Provincial Home Living. **Dish** and **pot**, Pepperwhites. **Chair**, Castlery. **Sconce**, The Montauk Lighting Co. Flooring, Natural Floorcovering Centres. 'Ticking Stripe' in Navy **wallpaper**, Milton & King.

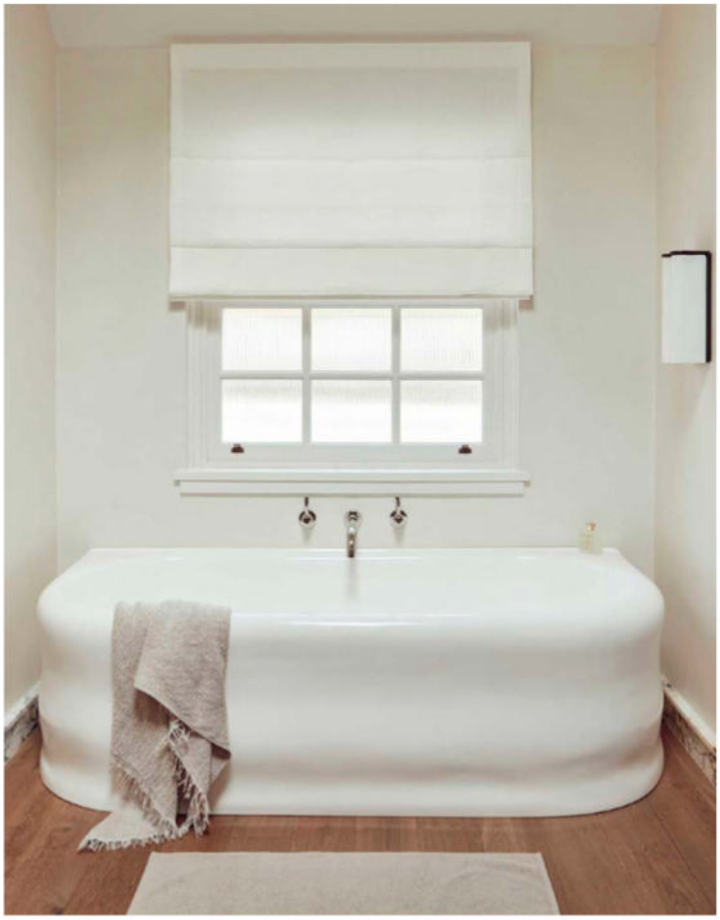
Photograph of Sophie Wilson by Alana Landsberry. Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox.
Calligraphy by Lesley Workman. Border throughout, 'Ticking Stripe' in Navy wallpaper, Milton & King.

UPON REFLECTION
'Hawthorn Hill' tilting mirror in Chrome, $1850, The English Tapware Company.

A BEAUTIFULLY PERFUMED luxury soap duo will *elevate an everyday* moment. 'Médie' and 'VIXI' liquid soaps, $159 each, Trudon.

RAIN FORECAST
A character-filled alternative to regular chrome or popular gold finishes, authentic antique brass tapware is a timeless choice. Shower arm and head (250mm), $390, Yabby.

TURKISH DELIGHT
Creating a beautiful bathroom experience, even when renting or on a budget, is all about small moments of luxury. Quality towelling is the perfect opportunity for this. Turkish-made 'Crema' bath/ beach towel, $110, Købn. ▶



DRY SPELL

A neutral palette offers enduring versatility and visual calm. The pure linen towel bundle in Natural, $390, Cultiver, is a classic choice.

WINTER WARMER

As cooler weather approaches, keep cosy with an elegant bathrobe. Robe in Cocoa, $129, Hommey.

ON DISPLAY

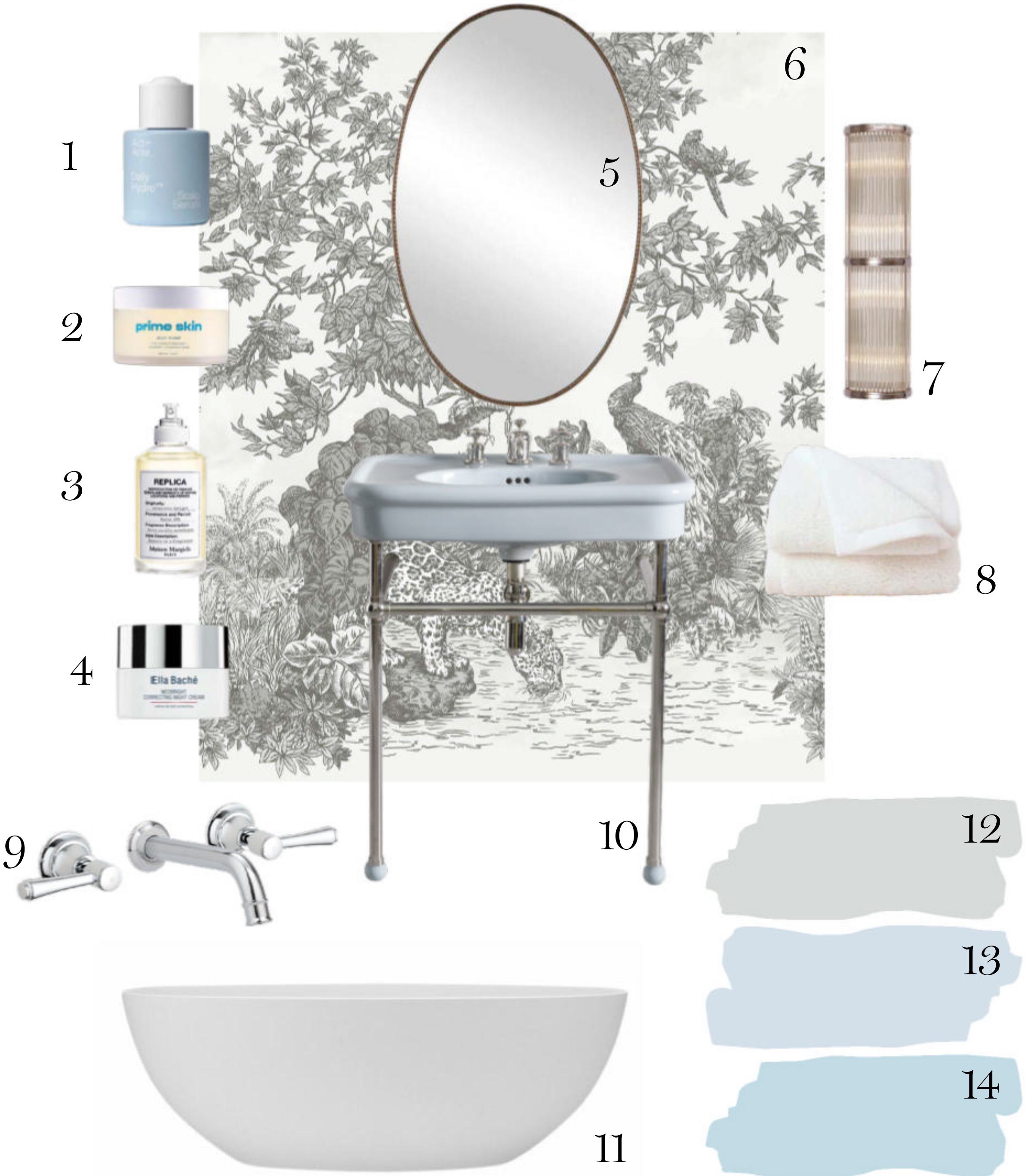
Incorporate a beautiful catchall for jewellery. Aerin 'Valentina' velvet heart tray, $770, Palmer & Penn.

FASHION FORWARD

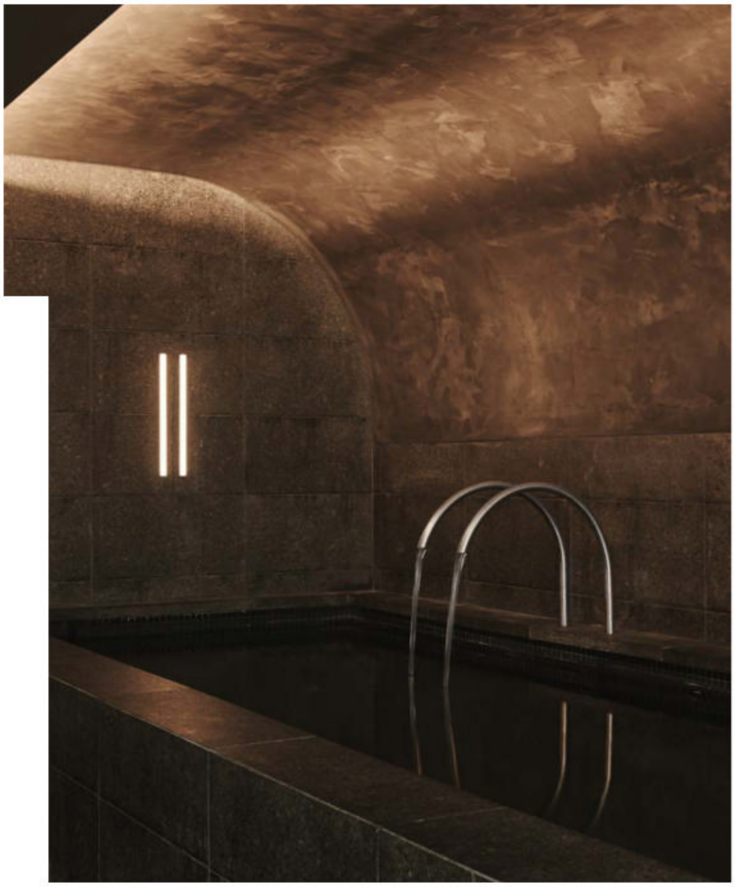
The Dries Van Noten mirror in Tortoiseshell, $385, Mecca, comes in a range of bold prints.

EMULATE A SPA SANCTUARY experience at home with a *careful selection of skincare* that will look as stylish on display as it will on skin. Omorovicza The Elixir, $340, Mecca.

The Room



1 Act+Acre Daily Hydro **Scalp Serum**, $39, Mecca. 2 Jelly Pump, $56, Prime Skin. 3 Maison Margiela Afternoon Delight **EDT**, $125/30ml, Mecca. 4 Neobright Correcting **Night Cream** (50ml), $158, Ella Baché. 5 Brass **wall mirror**, $1950, The Vault Sydney. 6 'Sinharaja' **mural** in Gray, $255, Milton & King. 7 'Allen' **sconce**, $1990, The Montauk Lighting Co. 8 Australian House & Garden Australian cotton **face washers**, $30/two, Myer. 9 'Kingsley' **taps and spout set** in Chrome, $265, ABI Interiors. 10 The Water Monopoly 'Rockwell' 610mm **basin** in Powder Blue on basin stand, $3100, The English Tapware Company. 11 'Odelia' **bath** (1800mm), $4500, ABI Interiors. 12 Dulux Terrace White. 13 Dulux Angora Blue Quarter. 14 Dulux Vanilla Ice Quarter. ▶



REST AND RETREAT
Cocooned in tactile stone, concrete and timber, with interiors by Studio Goss, About Time bathhouse in Torquay, Vic, features magnesium pools, cold plunges, a steam room and saunas. An idyllic weekend escape. atthebathhouse.com.au.

Photography by Willem-Dirk Du Toit.

DISCOVER THE DETAILS
BEHIND THE DESIGN

boutique homes

Boutique Homes

'CARMEN' 2-SEATER LEATHER SOFA IN 'VILLA' NOCCIOLA $2599; ZEDERE 'VIGO' LEATHER RECLINER ARMCHAIR WITH FOOTSTOOL IN OLIVE GREEN $3499; 'ELORA' COFFEE TABLE (100.1CM) $559; 'ELORA' LAMP TABLE (59CM) $299; 'AREZZO' CUSHION IN NATURAL (50 X 50CM) $89.95; 'ATMOSPHERE' CUSHION IN OLIVE (43 X 43CM) $39; 'HARRIS' CUSHION IN BLACK (50 X 50CM) $69.95; 'MILANO' CUSHION IN BRICK (55 X 55CM) $99.95; 'DAKU' BOXED CANVAS ARTWORK WITH NATURAL FRAME (93.2 X 93.2CM) $499; 'RODERICK' RUG IN IVORY, EXTRA LARGE (230 X 330CM) $1499.

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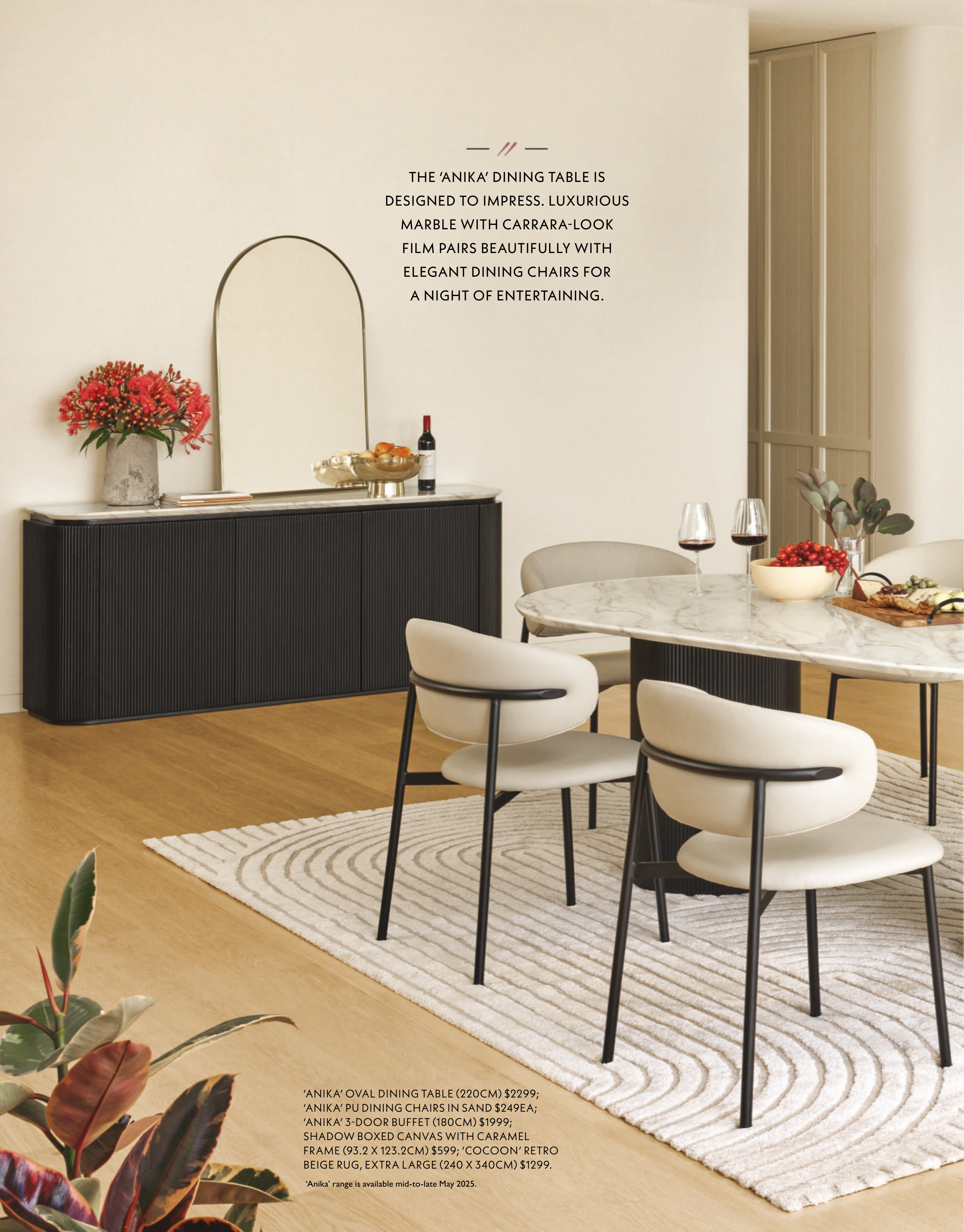

THE 'ANIKA' DINING TABLE IS DESIGNED TO IMPRESS. LUXURIOUS MARBLE WITH CARRARA-LOOK FILM PAIRS BEAUTIFULLY WITH ELEGANT DINING CHAIRS FOR A NIGHT OF ENTERTAINING.

'ANIKA' OVAL DINING TABLE (220CM) $2299; 'ANIKA' PU DINING CHAIRS IN SAND $249EA; 'ANIKA' 3-DOOR BUFFET (180CM) $1999; SHADOW BOXED CANVAS WITH CARAMEL FRAME (93.2 X 123.2CM) $599; 'COCOON' RETRO BEIGE RUG, EXTRA LARGE (240 X 340CM) $1299.

'Anika' range is available mid-to-late May 2025.

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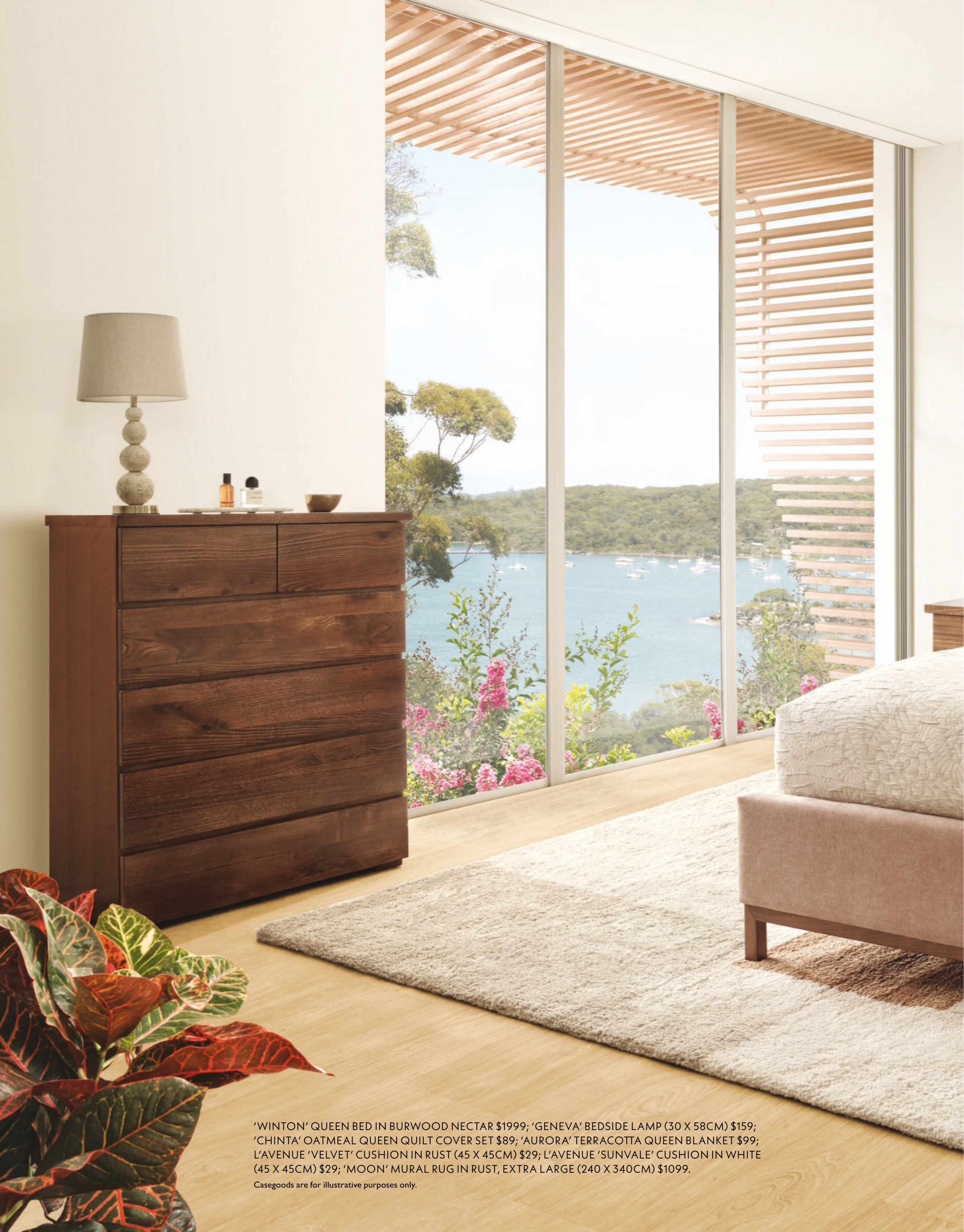

'WINTON' QUEEN BED IN BURWOOD NECTAR $1999; 'GENEVA' BEDSIDE LAMP (30 X 58CM) $159; 'CHINTA' OATMEAL QUEEN QUILT COVER SET $89; 'AURORA' TERRACOTTA QUEEN BLANKET $99; L'AVENUE 'VELVET' CUSHION IN RUST (45 X 45CM) $29; L'AVENUE 'SUNVALE' CUSHION IN WHITE (45 X 45CM) $29; 'MOON' MURAL RUG IN RUST, EXTRA LARGE (240 X 340CM) $1099.

Casegoods are for illustrative purposes only.

— // —
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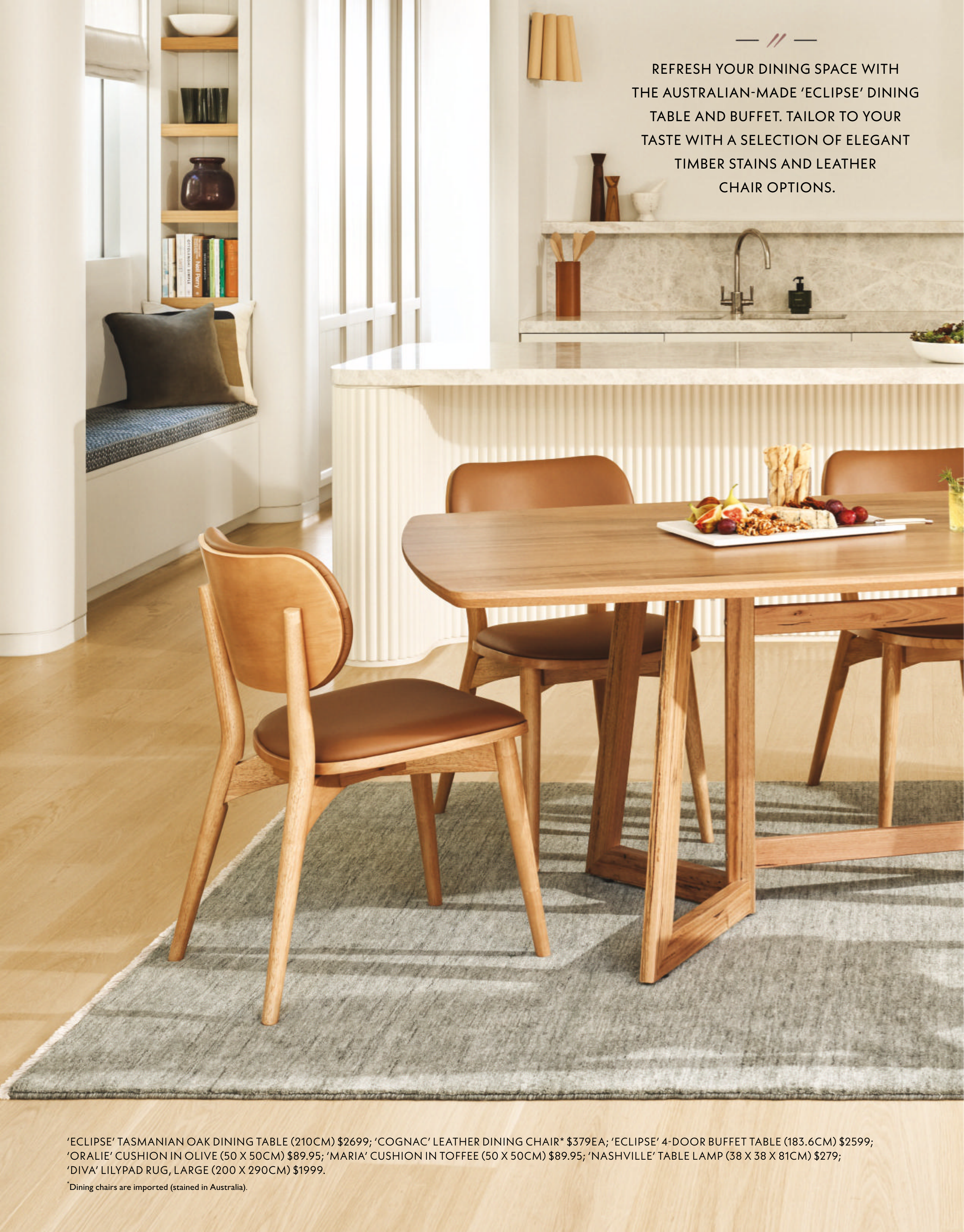

REFRESH YOUR DINING SPACE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN-MADE 'ECLIPSE' DINING TABLE AND BUFFET. TAILOR TO YOUR TASTE WITH A SELECTION OF ELEGANT TIMBER STAINS AND LEATHER CHAIR OPTIONS.

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*Dining chairs are imported (stained in Australia).

AUSTRALIAN MADE

ECLIPSE DINING TABLE & BUFFET

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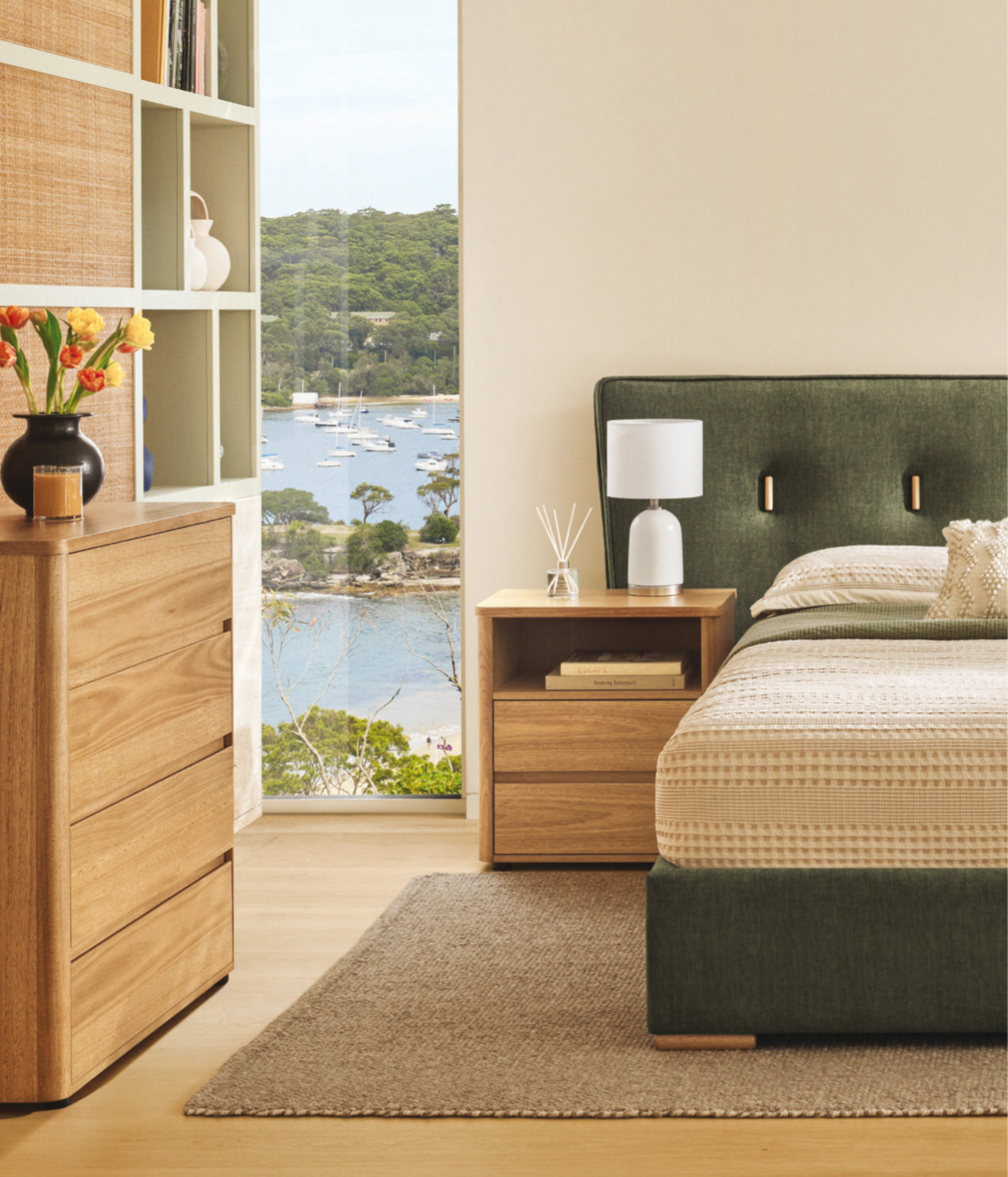

‘TAMARAMA’ QUEEN BED IN ‘ECOYA’ FERN $2399; ‘ALICE’ 4-DRAWER TALLBOY $2099; ‘ALICE’ 2-DRAWER 1-SHELF BEDSIDE TABLE $1149EA; ‘DOLCE’ 42CM LAMP IN WHITE $129; ‘ARLES’ STONE QUEEN/KING COVERLET SET $159; ‘AMORA’ COVERLET IN SAGE, QUEEN/KING $109; L’AVENUE ‘CLOVELLY’ SQUARE CUSHION IN BEIGE (45 X 45CM) $29; L’AVENUE ‘PETULA’ CUSHION IN MUSTARD (50 X 50CM) $29; ‘LEA’ TUB BEDROOM CHAIR IN ‘HEVEY’ SNOW $699; L’AVENUE ‘VELVET’ CUSHION IN CHAMPAGNE (45 X 45CM) $29; ‘RODERICK’ RUG IN MOCHA, EXTRA LARGE (230 X 330CM) $1499.

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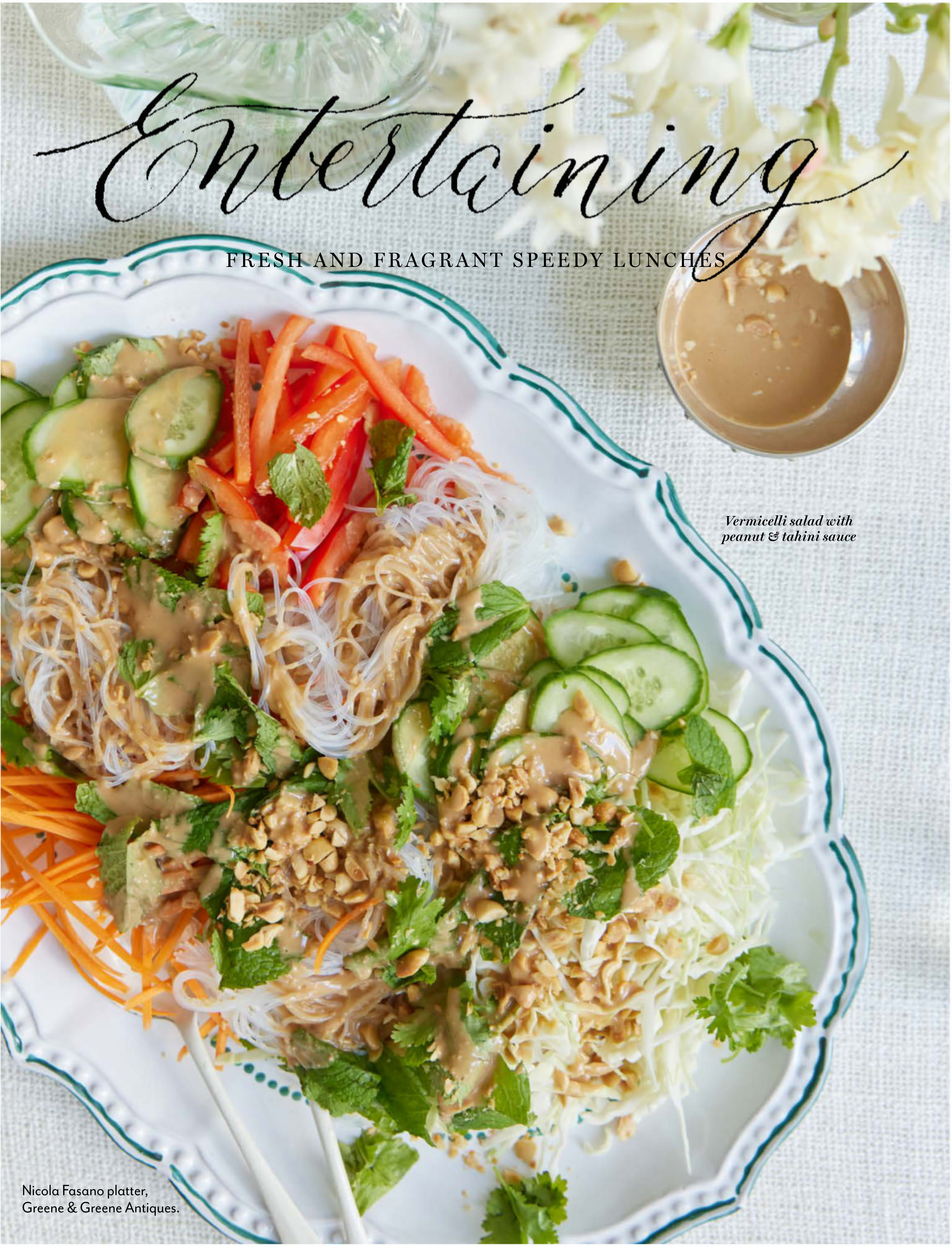

Vermicelli salad with peanut & tahini sauce

Nicola Fasano platter,
Greene & Greene Antiques.

Styling by Olga Lewis & Steve Cordony. Photograph by Alana Landsberry. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

LUNCH *is served*

Whip up a delicious meal in minutes for family and friends, with these fresh, flavourful recipes from The Cordony Kitchen.

RECIPES *Amanda Cordony* | STYLING *Olga Lewis & Steve Cordony*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Alana Landsberry*

Cheesy corn & jalapeño quesadilla

Nicola Fasano platter, andjug, tumblers and gravy boat, all Greene & Greene Antiques. Mason Cash original juicer, Sheldon & Hammond. Vintage Gien fish plate, Parterre. Roseblood d'Estoublon rose. **OPPOSITE** Amanda Cordony. Mason Cash original juicer, Sheldon & Hammond.

Green goddess & chicken summer rolls

Vintage Gien fish plates, Parterre. **OPPOSITE** Nicola Fasano platter, Greene & Greene Antiques. Mason Cash original juicer, Sheldon & Hammond.

VERMICELLI SALAD WITH PEANUT & TAHINI SAUCE

Prep time: 15 minutes.
Serves: 4–6.

150g rice vermicelli
½ cup julienned carrots
120g (2 cups) shredded green cabbage
1 cucumber, thinly sliced rounds
½ red capsicum, thinly sliced strips
10g mint leaves
10g coriander leaves
¼ cup crushed salted peanuts, to serve
Peanut & tahini sauce
3 tablespoons smooth peanut butter
2 tablespoons tahini
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 lime, zested and juiced
2 teaspoons maple syrup
4 tablespoons (80ml) water

1 Place vermicelli in a medium bowl and cover in boiling water. Soak for 3–5 minutes, until soft. Drain.
2 To make peanut and tahini sauce, in a small bowl, whisk peanut butter, tahini, soy sauce, lime juice and maple syrup. Add water gradually, whisking until sauce reaches a smooth, pourable consistency.
3 Pour half of the sauce onto the base of a large serving platter. Add vermicelli, carrots, cabbage, cucumber, capsicum and herbs.
4 Sprinkle over peanuts, drizzle with remaining peanut and tahini sauce, and serve.

GREEN GODDESS & CHICKEN SUMMER ROLLS

Prep time: 20 minutes.
Makes: 10 rolls.

½ cucumber, julienned
1 avocado, thinly sliced
2 red radishes, thinly sliced
10 mint leaves
2 cups shredded barbecued chicken
10 sheets of rice paper

Green goddess dressing
½ cup plain Greek yoghurt
1 small garlic clove, minced
2cm-piece ginger, peeled and finely grated
½ lemon, juiced
2 tablespoons (40ml) extra virgin olive oil
¾ cup mixed herbs such as parsley, basil and chives

1 To make dressing, place yoghurt, garlic, ginger, juice, oil and herbs in a blender and season. Blend until smooth. Adjust seasoning to taste. Can be made up to 3 days in advance and stored, covered, in fridge.
2 Place cucumber, avocado, radish, mint and chicken in separate bowls for easy assembly. Mix chicken with ¾ cup green goddess dressing. Set aside remaining dressing.
3 Fill a large shallow dish with warm water. Dip 1 rice paper sheet in water for about 10 seconds, until just softened. Remove and place on a clean, damp surface.
4 In centre of one sheet of rice paper, layer a little (one-tenth) chicken, cucumber, avocado, radish and one mint leaf. Fold ends of rice paper over filling, then roll up tightly. Repeat with remaining rice paper and filling.
5 Serve with remaining dressing for dipping.

CHEESY CORN & JALAPEÑO QUESADILLAS

Prep time: 10 minutes.
Cooking time: 12 minutes.
Serves: 4–6.

6 small flour tortillas
200g truffle manchego, grated
1 cup loosely packed fresh corn kernels
1 small jalapeño, finely chopped
1 tablespoon (20ml) extra virgin olive oil
10g sliced shallots and 1 halved lime, to serve

1 Place 3 tortillas on a flat surface. Divide cheese, corn kernels and jalapeño among tortillas and season. Top with remaining tortillas to form quesadillas.
2 Heat a medium frypan over medium heat and add olive oil. Use a spatula to place one quesadilla in frypan and cook for 2 minutes each side, until golden brown and crispy and cheese has melted.
3 Remove from pan, cool slightly, and cut into halves. Repeat with remaining quesadillas.
4 Serve quesadillas warm with shallots, lime and any leftover corn from the pan.

“*Quick and easy lunches* bursting with FRESH FLAVOURS will hit the spot when *family and friends* drop in.”

Wilkie Brothers fluted pie dish, Sheldon & Hammond. Bowls, The DEA Store. Tumblers and flatware, Greene & Greene Antiques.

Lemongrass & teriyaki chicken poke bowl

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LEMONGRASS & TERIYAKI CHICKEN POKE BOWLS

Prep time: 20 minutes + resting.
Cooking time: 20 minutes. Serves: 4.

For chicken
1 stalk lemongrass, white part only, minced
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
1 teaspoon sesame oil
1 chicken breast (300g), sliced in half lengthways
For bowl
1 cup basmati rice, rinsed and drained 3 times
1 Lebanese cucumber, thinly sliced rounds
1 cup frozen edamame beans, shelled, thawed
2 avocados, halved and sliced
2 small carrots, peeled and julienned
1 teaspoon sesame seeds, 1 tablespoon pickled ginger and 10g sliced shallots, to serve
For dressing
2 tablespoons tamarind paste
1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
1 teaspoon sesame oil
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
1 tablespoon fish sauce
2 tablespoons (40ml) water

1 In a medium bowl, combine lemongrass, garlic, teriyaki and sesame oil. Coat chicken in marinade, cover and place in fridge for at least 30 minutes or overnight.
2 To make dressing, in a small bowl, whisk together tamarind, vinegar, sesame oil, ginger, fish sauce and water. Can be made up to two days ahead and stored, covered, in fridge.
3 Place rice in a medium saucepan with 3 cups of water. Bring to a light simmer over medium heat and cook for 8–10 minutes, until tender. Drain and set aside.
4 Heat a pan over medium heat. Cook chicken for 4–5 minutes each side until cooked through. Rest for a few minutes, reserving juices, then slice into thin strips.
5 Divide rice among four bowls. Top with equal amounts of cucumber, edamame, avocado, carrots, chicken and reserved juices.
6 Drizzle with dressing, top with sesame, a little pickled ginger and sliced shallots.

Lemongrass & teriyaki chicken poke bowl

Bowls, The DEA Store.
Gravy boat and flatware, Greene & Greene Antiques.

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Mother's Day
GIFT GUIDE

CELEBRATE LOVED ONES IN STYLE BY GIFTING COVETABLE TREASURES IN BEAUTIFUL HUES.

PRODUCED BY *Sophie Wilson*

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Traditional pieces in CALMING SHADES of *blue* are *beautiful choices* for those with CLASSIC TASTE.

1 'Junie' **napkins**, $55/four, At Holm. **2** Bitossi **centrepiece** in Aqua, $169, Isabel. **3** Australian House & Garden 'Esperance' **pitcher**, $39.95, Myer. **4** Diptyque Orpheon limited edition **eau de parfum**, $309, Mecca. **5** Vintage table **mug** in Cobalt, $17.95, Robert Gordon. **6** 'Vieux Luxembourg' **teapot**, $219, Villeroy & Boch. **7** Oribe **shampoo** (250ml), $30, Mecca. **8** Australian House & Garden 'Esperance' **tapas bowls** in Pale Blue, $29.95/four, Myer. Ralph Lauren 'Aiden Stripe' **wallpaper** in Navy/White/Red, $280/roll, The Fabric Editors.

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PINK sparks *joy* whether it's on a *pretty teacup,* a gorgeous patterned CUSHION or a *centrepiece.*

1 'La Piscina' **wine cooler**, $220, Alex and Trahanas. **2** 'Kabrina' **bowl**, $139, Sage+Clare. **3** GG Emblem **wallet**, $850, Gucci. **4** 'Bon Appetit' **plate**, $45, Luxe & Beau. **5** 'Macaron' **casserole** in Cherry Blossom, $169, Chasseur. **6** 'Flannel Flower' **cushion**, $169, Bonnie and Neil. **7** 'Menorca' **fruit bowl stand**, $149, Kip&Co. **8** 'Scallop' **bowl**, $60, In the Roundhouse. **9** 'Provence' **pot**, $29.99, Adairs. **10** Celine **sunglasses**, $560, Sunglass Hut. **11** Bitossi 'Rose' collection **platter**, $140, Isabel. **12** Westman Atelier Baby Cheeks Powder **Blush Duo**, $123, Mecca. **13** Australian House & Garden 'Whitehaven' **tote bag**, $79.95, Myer. **14** 'Wonderlust' **teacup and saucer set**, $179, Wedgwood. **15** Cosmetic **bag**, 39.99, Adairs. **16** Jacquard **robe** in Blush, $239.95, In The Sac. 'Fresco Stripe' **wallpaper** in Pink, $280/10m roll, Milton & King. ▶

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Add a TOUCH OF ELEGANCE with *linen, silver* and *ceramic* pieces in a timeless *neutral palette.*

1 Mila Maurizi **cake stand**, $635, Abask. 2 Steel wave **platter**, $50, In the Roundhouse. 3 Maison Margiela Afternoon Delight **candle**, $112, Mecca. 4 'Rock' **cuff,** $455, Dinosaur Designs. 5 'Tuscan Bauble' **platter**, $205.95, Isabel. 6 Wool and cashmere **scarf**, $329, Ralph Lauren. 7 **Butter dish**, $34.95, Robert Gordon. 8 McMullin x Assembly Label rice paper **lamp**, $249, McMullin. 9 Maison Vintage standard **pillowcase**, $39.95, Aura Home. 10 'Elia' **necklace**, $860, Alex and Trahanas. 11 Square **pocket**, $905, Loewe. 12 'Ila' **earrings**, $890, Agmes. 13 Australian House & Garden 'Esperance' **platter**, $39.95, Myer. 14 'Vintage Table' **fruit bowl**, $89.95, Robert Gordon. 15 Australian House & Garden 'Sandy Cape' **cushion**, $69.95, Myer. 16 Bitossi **cake server**, $32, Emporean. 'Quartz Tree' **wallpaper**, POA, Wallpaper Direct. ▶

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TREASURED objects in *emerald and olive* HUES
add *vibrancy* and VISUAL interest *to the home.*

1 'Sicilia' **champagne bath and urn**, $1680, Alex and Trahanas. 2 'Poppy' **sun hat**, $450, Alemais. 3 'Cosy' **robe** in Rainforest, $129, Kip&Co. 4 'Dice' **silk shirt**, $465, Alemais. 5 Australian House & Garden 'Desert Flower' **highball** in Green, $59.95, Myer/four. 6 Australian House & Garden **wool blanket** in Green Check, $199.95, Myer. 7 'Cinder' mini **baguette**, $399, Oroton. 8 'Dice' **silk pant**, $495, Alemais. 9 'Dee Dee' mini **basket**, $590, Alemais. 10 'Napoli' **entree plate**, $75, Emporean. 11 'Zig Zag CC' **sleeve**, $79, Oroton. 12 'Nadine' **linen sheet**, $89/fitted, Sage+Clare. 13 Boy Smells 'Farm to **Candle**' in Snap, $80, Mecca. 14 'Minted Velvet' pea **cushion**, $79, Kip&Co. 15 'Venus' **bowl**, $199, Sage+Clare. 'Arboretum' **wallpaper**, POA, Wallpaper Direct. **H&G**

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stories are told
over the
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Joss Knight

The interior designer and managing director of Studiojos shares what inspires and challenges his refined and elegant creative body of work.

PHOTOGRAPHY *Nicholas Caldwell*

"Observing the world around me, whether through architecture, art or people, helps me apply fresh perspectives to my work."

I grew up in a home where creativity was always encouraged, whether it was through art, music or design. My parents valued craftsmanship, and that instilled in me the importance of not just making things look beautiful but also making them meaningful and purposeful. I think that early influence has been core in the way I approach design now.

There isn't really an 'average' day for me. Each day tends to be a mix of client meetings, design work and managing the studio's operations. I start by checking in with the team and reviewing our ongoing projects. Depending on the day, I might be diving into concept design for a new project or collaborating to finalise a proposal. My days often evolve as new challenges come up, but they always have a creative flow to them.

Music is a big part of my process, especially when I'm working on creative tasks. I love a good playlist that matches the project. Sometimes it's instrumental to keep me focused, other times I'll throw on something with lyrics if I'm feeling more energetic.

It has been a challenge finding the balance between creativity and running a business. It's not just about designing great things, but also managing logistics, client expectations and finances. Staying focused on the design while managing the business can be tricky, but it's all part of the journey.

I'm particularly proud of seeing a project come to life exactly how we envisioned it. There's something incredibly satisfying about transforming an idea into a tangible space or product that has a lasting impact. When clients express how our design changed their perspective or environment, it's a reminder that the work we do makes a difference.

With work-life balance, it's all about setting boundaries and creating space outside of work. I try to keep a consistent schedule, not letting work bleed into personal time too much. Regular breaks, time with family and stepping away from the computer are essential. I make time for activities that recharge me creatively, whether it's travel, art or getting outdoors.

I feel most artistically challenged when I work on projects that push me outside of my usual comfort zone, whether it's a different style, material or even a new industry sector. While it can be intimidating at first, that's when I feel most alive creatively. It forces me to think differently, which is ultimately what leads to growth and innovation.

I find that travel, nature and exposure to different cultures nourish my creativity. Observing the world around me, whether it's through architecture, art or people, helps me think differently and apply fresh perspectives to my work. I also find that stepping away from the desk for a bit – whether it's catching up with friends and family or visiting a new place – gives me the mental space I need to refuel.

I have a lot of respect for creatives who push boundaries and challenge conventions. I admire people like architect Tadao Ando, for his use of light and natural materials, Zaha Hadid, for her groundbreaking approach to form, and David Adjaye, for his deeply thoughtful designs.

As bad as this sounds… I don't tend to have time to read a book. Most of my time is spent scrolling Pinterest, opening a few design or fashion magazines or even watching a short film about design and how it is shaping the world.

True luxury, to me, isn't about excess or opulence. It's about having something that's timeless, well-made and meaningful. Luxury is found in the details – the craftsmanship, the thoughtfulness and the purpose behind something. It's about creating an experience, whether it's through a beautiful space or a piece of design that elevates everyday life.

One destination that inspired me was Paris. The city's architecture is a perfect blend of history and modernity, and the way old and new buildings coexist creates a unique energy. I love the attention to detail in the design of public spaces – whether it's the grandness of the Palais Garnier or the simplicity of a small cafe terrace. Paris is a reminder of the power of design to shape the way people experience a place.

I love a good local cafe to start the day. In Sydney, there's a great spot called The Wedge where I go for my morning coffee. For dinner, Chin Chin is a go-to for modern Thai, and if I'm looking to unwind I'll head over to Eau-De-Vie, a speakeasy-style bar for a creative cocktail. These places always have a great atmosphere.

I'm interested in working within the hospitality sector more. Creating experiences through the design of hotels, restaurants and bars is something I'd love to explore further. It would be exciting to craft spaces that not only look beautiful but also enhance the experience of the guests, offering them a sense of luxury, comfort and connection. It's an opportunity to challenge creativity while meeting functional needs in a dynamic, immersive way. **H&G**

Studiojos: studiojos.com.au.

JOSS'S FAVOURITE THINGS
From top Palais Garnier, Paris. *Quiet Geometry* artwork by Danica Firulovic, Jerico Contemporary. 'Lineal Flower' pendant light, Anna Charlesworth. 'Seity' ottoman, Studiojos. **OPPOSITE** Joss at home. Furniture, The Lazy Stylist.

Styling by Joss Knight. Architecture by WMK Architecture. Paris photograph by Getty Images.

DISCOVER THE DETAILS
BEHIND THE
DESIGN

boutique
homes

Boutique Homes

MELISSA PENFOLD & ISABELLA WALKER-SMITH

LAMPS

A LAMP DOES MORE THAN SIMPLY SHED LIGHT... THE RIGHT DESIGNS CAN DRAMATICALLY TRANSFORM A ROOM.

STYLING *Sophie Wilson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Kristina Šoljo*

Melissa and Isabella at the Boyd Blue showroom in Sydney. Arteriors 'Yuri' lamp, 'Kish' pendant lights, 'Parasol' lamp and 'Tangier' lamp, and Boyd Art *Ash II* and *Ash I* artworks, all Boyd Blue.

Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox.

Lamps are a winning way to bring illumination, colour and pattern to any corner of your house. At night, a stylish lamp can cheer up a room, emitting a gentle light from under a beautiful shade. In the day, a lamp can double as a piece of decorative art, giving a room elegance and confidence.

Lamps are often one of the first things people notice when they walk into a room. Be prepared to pay good money, especially for the bases. You'll have your lamps for life, so think of them as an investment. The average-sized living room will need a few, each casting a subtle pool of light. Just make sure you get the base-to-shade proportions right (see page 68). Often the shade is too small for the base. If you're in doubt, pick the larger size: a wide lampshade is preferable to a pinhead.

Pick great bases, in classic shapes crafted from stone, marble, metal, glass, rattan, ceramic, celadon, acrylic or nickel-plated. Shades come in a range of materials, but linen, cotton, silk, paper and wicker are classic choices. They also go through fashions, particularly when it comes to their shape.

Just make sure you look beyond the flourishes to ensure the proportions are correct. The best colours are white, beige, chocolate and black.

There is a wealth of lamp-base styles to complement any interior. Some come with lampshades, some don't. Here are our picks from affordable off-the-shelf options to high-end designs to love forever.

AFFORDABLE

ADAIRS

This store has long been a great go-to for inexpensive lamps. The 'Maldives Natural' is a customer favourite, $199. And check out 'Gigi' mini tortoiseshell table lamp, which is at a good price point, on-trend and has a small footprint. The base and shade are made of glass, so with care it should hold up well, $89.99. Other appealing affordable options are the 'Nora' cream stoneware minimalist design, which has satisfying heft, $199.99, 'Hariette' in Black or White Matte, $99.99, 'Porcini' metal lamp in Oyster Gray, $119.99, and 'Catalina' sculptural metal base with pleated linen shade, $139.99. *adairs.com.au*

BEACON LIGHTING

Beacon Lighting has had astounding success with its designer-look pieces that will make a statement in the home. Seek out the tactile 'Kasa 1' light in Natural Rattan, $189, the 'Coates' LED lamp in Antique Brass with Brown marble base with its striking silhouette, $299, or the brass and rattan 'Camden' design, $189, a staple in bedrooms. Its woven shade casts a prominent warm light that's perfect for reading. *beaconlighting.com.au*

IKEA

Inexpensive and reliable options. There's the internet-famous 'Varmblixt' lamp, $99, but it's the spherical, Mid-century style 'Fado' lamp, $29, that has taken over TikTok because of its styling versatility. The 25cm-diameter milky minimalist glass globe that sits atop a footed base brings an ethereal glow to any space. It doesn't have any bells and whistles, but the Scandi simplicity has its advantages: smooth glass shades are easy to wipe down. The 'Arstid' table lamp, $29, is the lamp version of a friend who gets along with everyone. Its slim, timeless profile and simple pleated white shade complements all kinds of settings – a subtly tiered and surprisingly heavy base keeps the lamp anchored in place, and the ball at the end of its pull chain switch is nicely weighted, so it won't knock against the base. *ikea.com/au*

PROVINCIAL HOME LIVING

No one will guess how little you paid for good lookers like 'Asha', 'Alfie', 'Airlie', 'Billie', 'Creole', 'Lorenzo', 'Martha', 'Maximus', 'Sami' or 'Stevie'. There are mostly classic bases in glass, terracotta, ceramic, timber, metal and iron with cotton and linen shades in neutral colours. These lamps are just right... not too expensive, not too big, not too small. The textured, creamy fabrics mean they can fit in with farmhouse schemes, while the metallic sheen of some of the bases gives them an edge, allowing them to blend with more eclectic interiors. Prices range between $99 and $199. *provincialhomeliving.com.au*

1

2

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5

1 'Gigi' **table light** in Tortoise, $89.99, Adairs. **2** 'Camden 1' **table lamp**, $189, Beacon Lighting. **3** 'Fado' **table lamp**, $29, IKEA. **4** 'Coates' **table lamp** in Antique Brass with Brown marble base, $299, Beacon Lighting. **5** 'Alfie' **table lamp** in Grey and White, $109.95, Provincial Home Living.

MID-RANGE

CANVAS+SASSON

The Queensland wholesaler of furniture and homewares, including an exclusive range of lamps, is a best-kept secret among Australian designers. Anna Spiro is a repeat client. Take a look at natural rattan lamp designs such as 'Parasol', $430, and 'Comporta' in a beautiful hourglass shape with plaited detailing, $530. New designs include Riverstone, one of the tallest lamps we found at 72cm, with a charcoal stone base and natural shade. Dropping in July is 'Mantel', a glossy black ceramic base with handwoven wicker shade, plus 'Rimmel', with a ribbed ceramic base the colour of an oyster. Each lamp is handcrafted, so no two are the same. See the website for stockists. *canvasandsasson.com.au*

COCO REPUBLIC

Glamorous lamp classics treated in a modern way to give a room elegance, gravitas and confidence. Bases in crystal, marble, travertine, selenite, ceramic, alabaster, brass, tallow and more. Take a look at 'Amara' with an earthenware base in a brown glaze that adds earthiness to your rooms, paired with a linen shade, $595. Or there's the 'Wren' organic lamp with an arty, moonstone jade ceramic base and linen shade, $525, or 'Cia' in Dark Honey or Olive ceramic base with Belgian linen shade and brass fittings, $325. *cocorepublic.com.au*

FEW & FAR

Choose from bases crafted in raw materials such as hand-forged metals, mango wood, woven raffia and palm. Take a look at the 'Ayla' table lamp with black carved wooden base topped with a grass shade made from stained Munja grass, which will add a natural element to your space. The grass shade gently diffuses the light, casting a warm and inviting glow, $249. The 'McCartney' lamp has a cream fabric shade with vertical fluffy lines that creates textural interest and contrasts beautifully with its industrial-style, black metal lamp base with vertical rivets, $295. *fewandfar.com.au*

FLORABELLE

Close to 250 designs that are reliably stylish and an eye-catching addition to any space. Look for new releases like 'Long Island' rattan lamp, a colonial-style, gourd shape with all-over woven lamp design and scalloped-edge shade. Also, 'Twist' column ceramic lamp with linen shade, 'Delaware' vintage, French-style with timber stick base in antique silver brass, in the Ralph Lauren style, with linen shade. Also, more than 80 shades to update existing or new lamps in tapered, drum and cylinder shapes, plus linen, paper, rattan or velvet finishes in an array of tones. Order through your interior designer or decorator. *florabelle.com.au*

FREEDOM

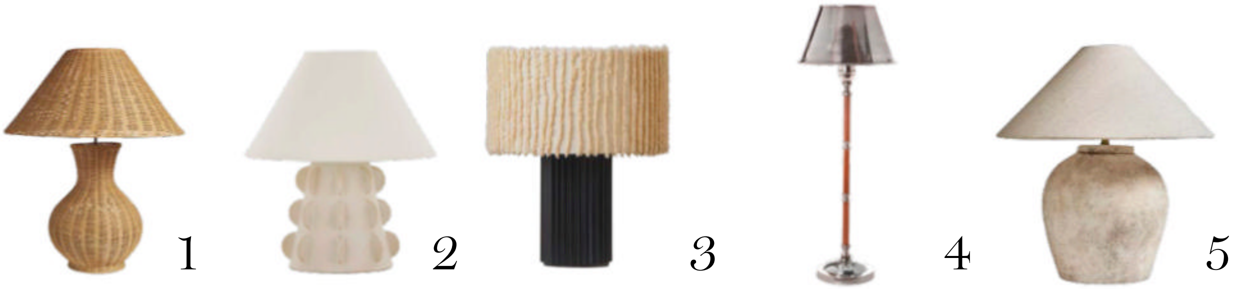
Atmospheric designer look-alikes on our radar here include the 'Kallista' table lamp with earthy, white-washed terracotta plinths, handcrafted in the Philippines, topped with a white cone-shaped shade and weighs a hefty 4kg, $329, as well as the 'Thornton' table lamp, with its terracotta base made in the Philippines with a drum shade, $349. *freedom.com.au*

GLOBEWEST

Lots of new releases here. From the 'Emery Bodhi' glazed, modernist-style, ceramic chocolate table lamp with hand-loomed linen shade in Fawn, to its sibling, 'Emery Curve', in chocolate with ivory shade, $405 each. We love the 'Easton Osha' table lamp in marble, which weighs a hefty 6.9kg, with inline switch, $460, while 'Easton Cupola' minimal conical lamp in iron comes in four fashion-conscious colours: Fern, Currant, Lemon and Petrol, $175. *globewest.com.au*

ISABELLA WALKER-SMITH'S LIGHTING EDIT

Isabella has quickly gained a huge following for her affordable, of-the-moment table lamp collection, launched a couple of years ago. The average price for a pair of her crystal lamps with linen shades starts at $400, compared with $2000 for a similar pair from a premium brand or boutique. Look out for great versions of high-quality, designer-style lamps that are dead ringers for Aerin, Ralph Lauren or Kelly Wearstler pieces for a fraction of the price. They look expensive, but they're not. *@isabellawalkersmith* ▶



1 'Parasol' **lamp**, POA, Canvas+Sasson. 2 'Wren' **table lamp** in White, $525, Coco Republic. 3 'McCartney' **table lamp**, $295, Few & Far. 4 'Delaware' **table lamp** in Antique Silver and Dark Wood, POA, Florabelle. 5 'Kallista' **table lamp**, $296, Freedom.

“SOMETIMES THINGS JUST SPEAK TO YOU. IF YOU BUY WHAT YOU LOVE, THERE IS ALWAYS A PLACE FOR IT.”

McMULLIN

The artisanal, sustainable pieces here wouldn’t be out of place in an art gallery. Start with ‘Rice Paper’, a Japandi-style lamp that looks like you picked it up on a trip to Paris or New York, $249. This softly ribbed table lamp designed in collab with fashion brand Assembly Line will have you doing a double take. Its shape doesn’t scream ‘light fixture’, making it the perfect way to add pizzazz. It emits a beautiful subtle glow. And don’t miss ‘Percy’, an organic squiggle of metal that looks like a work of art, $80. *mcmullinandco.com*

POTTERY BARN

A wide range of good-value, well-made lights in all the organic finishes and shapes that add earthiness to rooms but won’t overwhelm. We love the rustic French-style lamps, such as ‘Maddox’ with its terracotta clay base and hand-painted grey finish that resembles concrete with a bronze finish finial, $269. Or ‘Miller’ imported ceramic bases made from clay, in Black or White, $329–$429, and ‘Ezra’ ceramic lamps hand-glazed in Teal, $299–$369. You get the best of both worlds here: the textured bases give the pieces an unfinished look, but the crisp, linen shades make them feel pristine. *potterybarn.com.au*

RJ LIVING

Beautiful earthy designs that incorporate just the right amount of whimsy to remind us of a piece you would find in a pottery shop. ‘Mila’ has a curvaceous base in ivory matte finish topped with wavy linen shade, $169. ‘Blake’ has a hexagonal dark timber base that contrasts with a toffee linen angular shade, $199. *rjliving.com.au*

WEST ELM

Great versions of high-quality, traditional classics treated in a modern way. Lovely, aged finishes, on all mod-con bases. Sturdy and sculptural ‘Suki’ is made in a Fair Trade Certified facility, with white alabaster shade and base in dark bronze finish. A sophisticated new metal design, ‘Henning’ is uncomplicated with a sleek silhouette and a construction that feels solid, with tiny wooden feet, $279–$299. Rustic French-style iron lamps in dark brass, cream or rust and the turned wooden lamp in different finishes and colours to order. *westelm.com.au*

Choosing the perfect shade

- **A drum or rectangular shade** pairs well with a geometric base for a modern look, while a cone shade suits a traditional ginger jar, double gourd or candlestick base.
- **Tapered, drum or cone shades** work well with slender bases.
- **A shade must cover the lamp’s hardware.** If necessary, adjust the metal piece that holds the shade together. Even a 1cm adjustment can make a difference.
- **Look beyond the design flourishes** to see what basic shape your shade adheres to. Size definitely matters when it comes to choosing a lampshade.

HIGH END

BOYD BLUE

Where leading designers including Thomas Hamel, Hare + Klein, Kate Nixon, Marco Meneguzzi, Adelaide Bragg and Brendon Wong go for serious beauty. It's Melissa's choice, too. This industry secret is one of the best. Shelley Boyd has been in business for 25 years and has exclusive rights to the hugely popular US lighting brand Arteriors. The materiality is knockout, but these are also lamps that can transform a room as dramatically as new paint with an intriguing pattern of light and shadow. The dramatic, dappled light cast by braided rattan, seagrass, rope or cork fixtures relies on the darkness as much as the illumination. All pieces are handmade. You can't go wrong with the 'Levon' lamp with its cantilevered frame in iron with a two-tone finish in English bronze and antique brass supporting a white linen drum shade with white cotton lining, $1628. *boydblue.com*

BLOOMINGDALES LIGHTING

The wholesale lamp showroom is chosen more than any other by magazine stylists as the place they return to. They all come for the same thing. High-design lighting by Aerin, Ralph Lauren, Kelly Wearstler, Suzanne Kasler, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Barry, and master potter Christopher Spitzmiller. Apparently, the 'Phoebe' stacked table lamp outsells everything. Ceramic lamp bestsellers? 'Vellig', 'Celia', and 'Fleur'. Metal design winners? 'Orsay', 'Felix' and 'Zaya'. We recommend 'Avedon', 'Turlington', 'Pharoah' and 'Dauphine'. *bloomingdales.com.au*

CULT

Sleek but timeless Scandinavian classic table lamps by Denmark's Louis Poulsen, long popular with architects and designers, but also accessible to the public. Also, Anglepoise – among the best lights money can buy – which is a genius of simplicity. You'll also find lamps by Scandi brands such as Gubi and Hay. We like the 'Night Owl' table lamp, $410, and the petit size of the 15.6cm 'Como SC53' lamp from Space Copenhagen, which is perfect to illuminate empty nooks, from $335. *cultdesign.com.au*

DOMUS TEXTILES

The showroom stocks Vaughan Designs, the Rolls-Royce of lighting, with a full range of high-end British table lamps. The company's handmade lampshades in silk, parchment, vellum and card walk out the door. Vaughan is the one lighting brand that international decorators swear by – adding another dimension and making a difference to the furniture, the walls and the people in the room. Famous designs include 'Hardwick', 'Rock', 'Woodville', and 'Phoenix'. *domustextiles.com.au*

DUNLIN

The place to source lamps by British designer to the rich and famous, Rose Uniacke. Including her beautiful, tapered drum lamp shades in Quill, Sandpiper fine sateen weave or Seed, a woven fabric that is pounded with wooden mallets resulting in an almost paper-like quality. Also see 'Blossom', $1638, a portable, cordless light. The petite design, inspired by the plum blossom, has a fluted bone china shade topped by a satin brass detail. You can move it from dining table to living room, hallway and garden to change the mood of rooms. There are three brightness levels from a soft, warm glow to sufficient light to dine or entertain. The shade is handcrafted Stoke-on-Trent pottery. Also, take a look at the Disderot 'Lampe 10497' by Michel Mortier 1972. The 'Hector Bibendum' table lamp has been updated with brass metal work that complements the bone china wonderfully, with either black or grey braided cable, $1068. *dunlin.com.au*

EUROLUCE

Arguably the best lights available on earth, with design classics represented in major international museums and award-winners from major lighting brands: Flos (seek out designs like 'Landlord' and 'Bellhop'). Also, Oluce (look for the 'Atollo' collection), and Tala (we love 'The Muse'). Think the sleekest designer looks: no knockoffs here, just original designs by famous names such as Philippe Starck, Achille Castiglioni, Jasper Morrison, Tobia Scarpa, Marcel Wanders, Antonio Citterio, Patricia Urquiola, Rodolfo Dordoni, Piero Lissoni and Sebastian Wrong. *euroluce.com.au*

GRAHAM GEDDES ANTIQUES

This store is an Eden for lovers of antique lamps. A great place to seek out unusual bases, such as a Chinese porcelain vase or something more unusual that has been wired up. It's the place to come for striking one-offs such as a pair of Blanc de Chine vases as lamp bases, or Chinese Ming pot lamps and Lighthouse cut glass bases, with bud capital, tapering shaft and lobed foot. Find rock crystal lamps with gilded mounts, cast bronze lamps on tripod bases. A pair of early 20th-century famille rose vases as lamps and empire-style cast bronze lamps. *grahamgeddesantiques.com.au*

LAURA KINCADE

Go for Visual Comfort and Ralph Lauren designs and let your rooms shine with lamps that are like living room jewellery. Visual Comfort lamps are used in the world's best houses, including the White House's Oval Office. Start with 'Armato', a big bronze lamp by Kelly Wearstler that showcases the famous American designer's signature contrast of materials, with juxtapositions of naturalism and exaggeration to engage the senses. Check the famous snazzy elegance of Christopher Spitzmiller's artisanal lamps that can also be found in the Oval Office and in the collections of celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey. ▶

Getting the proportions right

- The height of the shade should be about half the height of the base.
- The height of the lamp should be the same as the base diameter of its shade. There are exceptions to this rule, however. For example, a skinny candlestick lamp will require something smaller, otherwise the proportional difference between lamp and shade would be huge.
- Equally, if you have a stumpy lamp, you may need a shade that is considerably wider than the lamp's height.
- The shade should be twice as wide as the lamp base. If you measure the entire lamp including the shade, the shade should comprise a third of the total. ▶

> "A drum or rectangular shade pairs well with a geometric base for a modern look."

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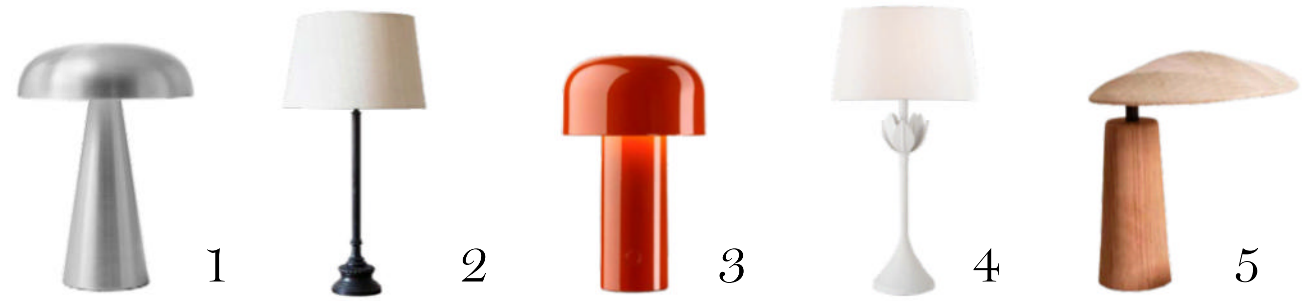

1 &Tradition.'Como SC53' portable **table lamp**, from $355, Cult **2** Rose Uniacke tapered drum **lamp shade** with diffuser in Quill, $1278, Dunlin. **3** Flos 'Bellhop' **table lamp** in Brick Red, $527, Euroluce. **4** 'Alberto' **table lamp** in Plaster White, $1290, The Montauk Lighting Co. **5** Pinch 'Pium' **table light**, $1820, Winnings. **OPPOSITE** Artwork and Arteriors 'Conway' **lamp**, both Boyd Blue.

More like sculptures than light fixtures, Spitzmiller's earthenware lamps come in endless colours – with each handmade by Spitzmiller and his team. Then there's 'Kokomo', a striking new rattan addition by Chapman & Myers, as well as 'Aubert' in alabaster, and 'Cabazon' in ceramic glaze, also by Chapman & Myers.
laurakincade.com

LIVING EDGE

Clean, architectural good looks, including one of the world's most celebrated lighting collections, Flos. Also, ultra-cool brands such as Vitra, Tom Dixon, Muuto, Lambert & Fils and Oluce. Expect to be spoilt for choice: from Vitra's 'Akari' light sculptures by Isamu Noguchi, a series of luminaires, handcrafted from traditional washi paper by Japanese artisans, $695, to Tom Dixon's 'Bell' portable, $475.
livingedge.com.au

THE MONTAUK LIGHTING CO

Lamps that are artworks. Seriously. They're a thing. Designed by big names like Suzanne Kasler, Ralph Lauren, Kelly Wearstler, Aerin, Tom Dixon, Thomas O'Brien and Barbara Barry, with renowned brands like Visual Comfort as well as UK design studio Tigermoth Lighting, along with US lighting specialist Hudson Valley Lighting Group. Fashioned of opulent materials, (alabaster, cut-crystals, metal chains, silks, gold leaf and metalwork), the powers of illumination are almost beside the point. These are showstopper lamps with such striking silhouettes they're bound to buoy your mood. Check out 'Alberto', 'Cara', 'Dalfern', 'Dauphine', 'Zealous' and much more – this is probably the lighting range most likely to make design junkies go weak at the knees. When you happen upon this beautiful range of lamps and illuminations, you want to take a moment to exhale and just take them in.
montauklightingco.com

SPACE

Consistently provides fantastic, directional table light designs from the world's brightest talents. Think celebrated brands such as Kartell, Foscarini, Bocci and Maxalto, with many designs inspired by mathematics and patterns in nature. Foscarini's 'Gregg Piccola' table lamps in glass have a delightful organic shape, like pebbles honed by a river, and they are made of hand-blown glass in many sizes, from $370. Made in Italy and designed by Ludovica & Roberto Palomba. Another goodie is the Kartell 'Cindy' table lamp, also made in Italy, with a conical lampshade and rounded teardrop base. It comes in a broad range of all-matte metallic tones, $620.
spacefurniture.com.au

SPENCE & LYDA

This furniture showroom, a favourite with architects, has beautiful table lights, both mid-range and high-end. Go for sculptural, artisanal looks such as Pinch 'Pium', an organic design inspired by a seed pod, with a solid oak base and dark bronze metalwork topped with a sculptural shade that combines linen and fibre from the banana plant. Or Pinch 'Gentle', a solid copper frame covered with banana plant fibre that creates the softest illumination imaginable. There are also timeless fresh takes on modernist looks with options such as 'Stella', hand-cast in solid bronze and brass, for desk, bedroom, living and dining spaces.
winnings.com.au

TIGMI TRADING

With vintage and new lighting designs that hark from all corners of the globe as well as locally designed collections, this design mecca has a lamp to suit every room. From the arty Mathieu Mategot-style French floor lamp, $5950, to the Oi Soi Oi x Tigmi 'Bordeaux' table lamp, an elegant number with a raw silk shade, $745, and the luminous Dusty Deco 'Cornelia', $1450, dressed head-to-toe in capiz shells, this is lighting that is designed to thrill.
tigmitrading.com **H&G**

Next month
CUSHIONS

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Houses

INSPIRING REDESIGNS AND RENOVATIONS

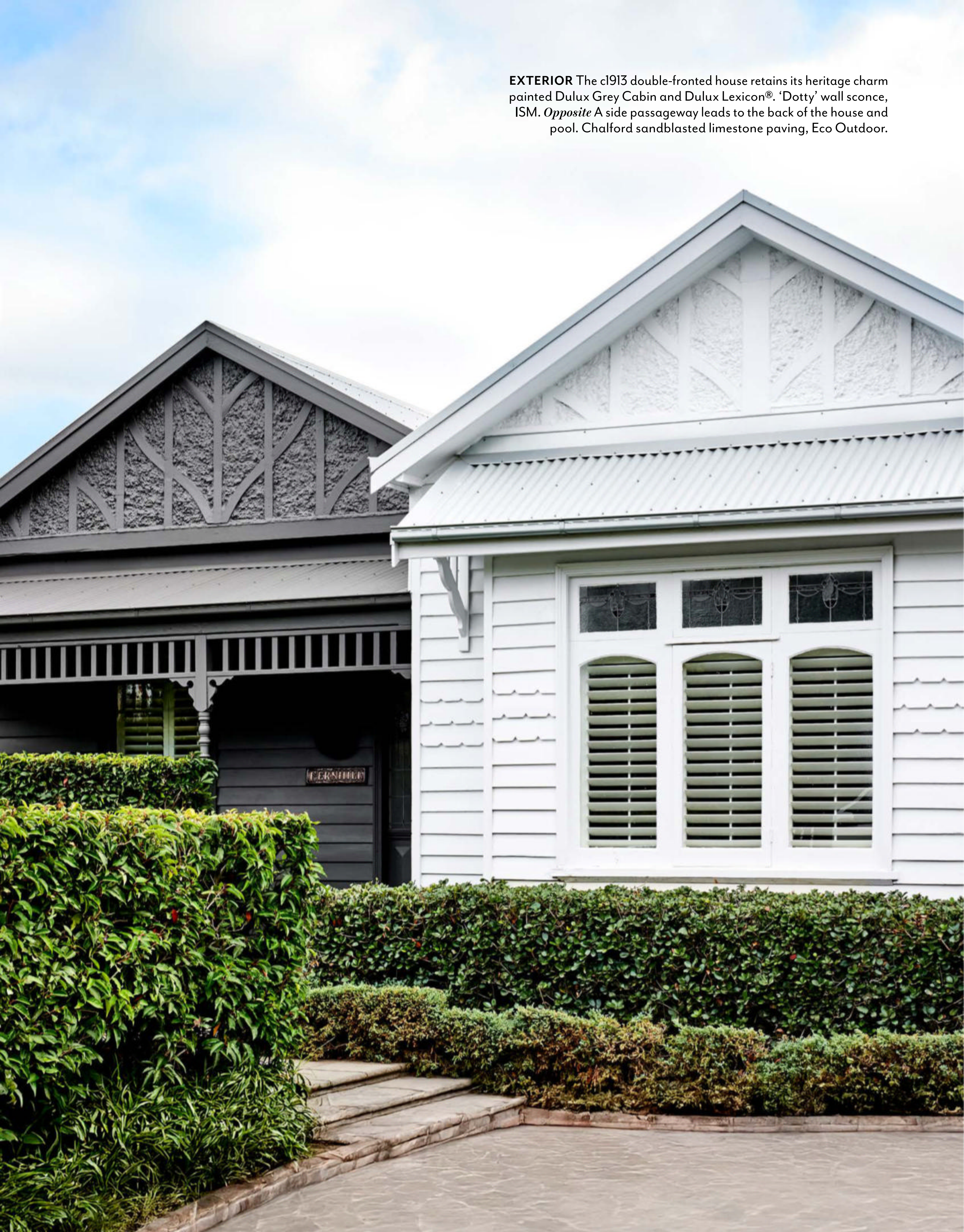
An ash timber Jardan table and MDF Italia chairs sit comfortably beneath an artwork by Eugene Tan. See more of these calming interiors by Studio Whiting over the page.

Photograph by Pablo Veiga. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

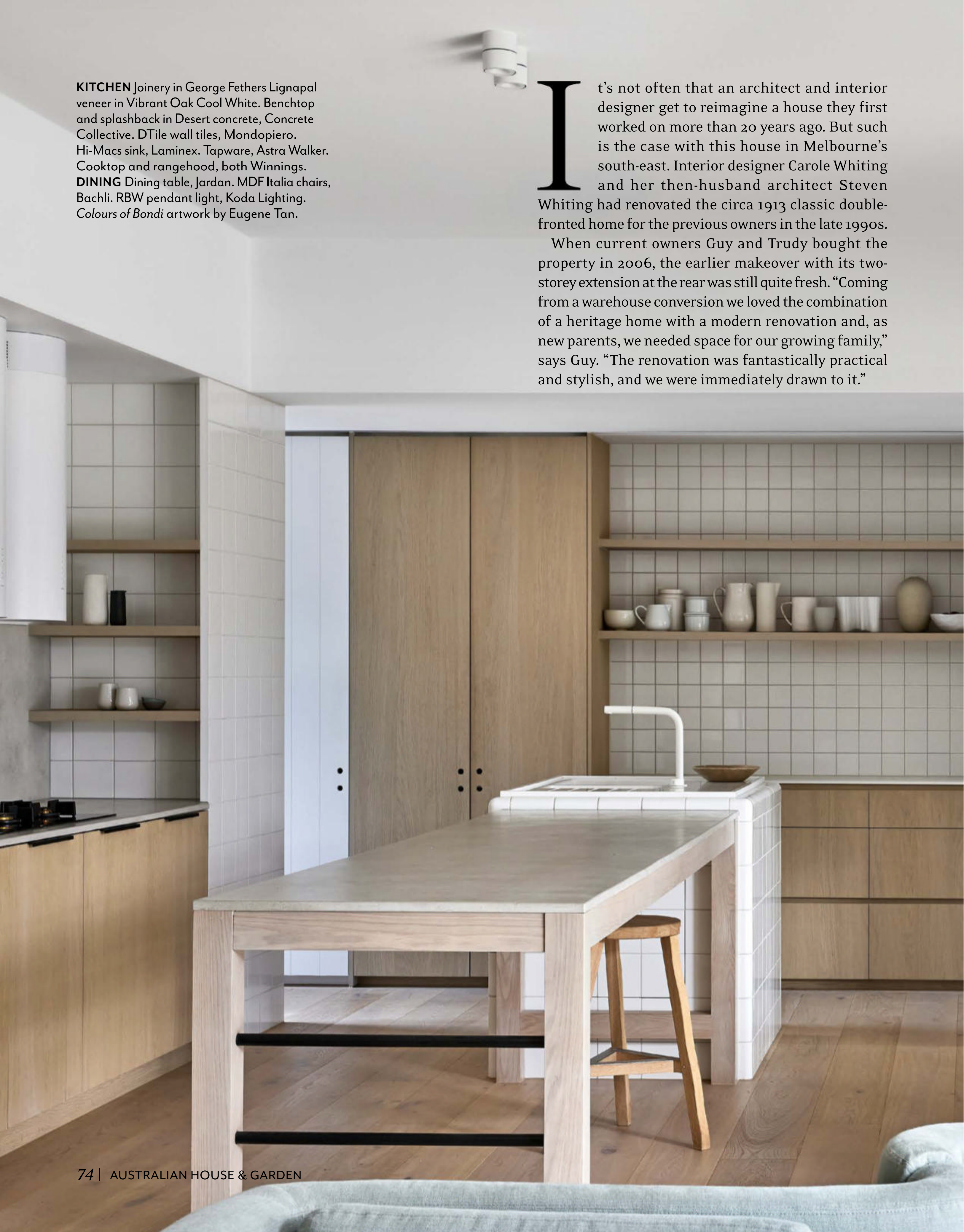
SECOND *time round*

The owners of a circa 1913 home invite the designer and architect who revamped it in the late 1990s to go to work on it once again.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Pablo Veiga*



EXTERIOR The c1913 double-fronted house retains its heritage charm painted Dulux Grey Cabin and Dulux Lexicon®. 'Dotty' wall sconce, ISM. *Opposite* A side passageway leads to the back of the house and pool. Chalford sandblasted limestone paving, Eco Outdoor.



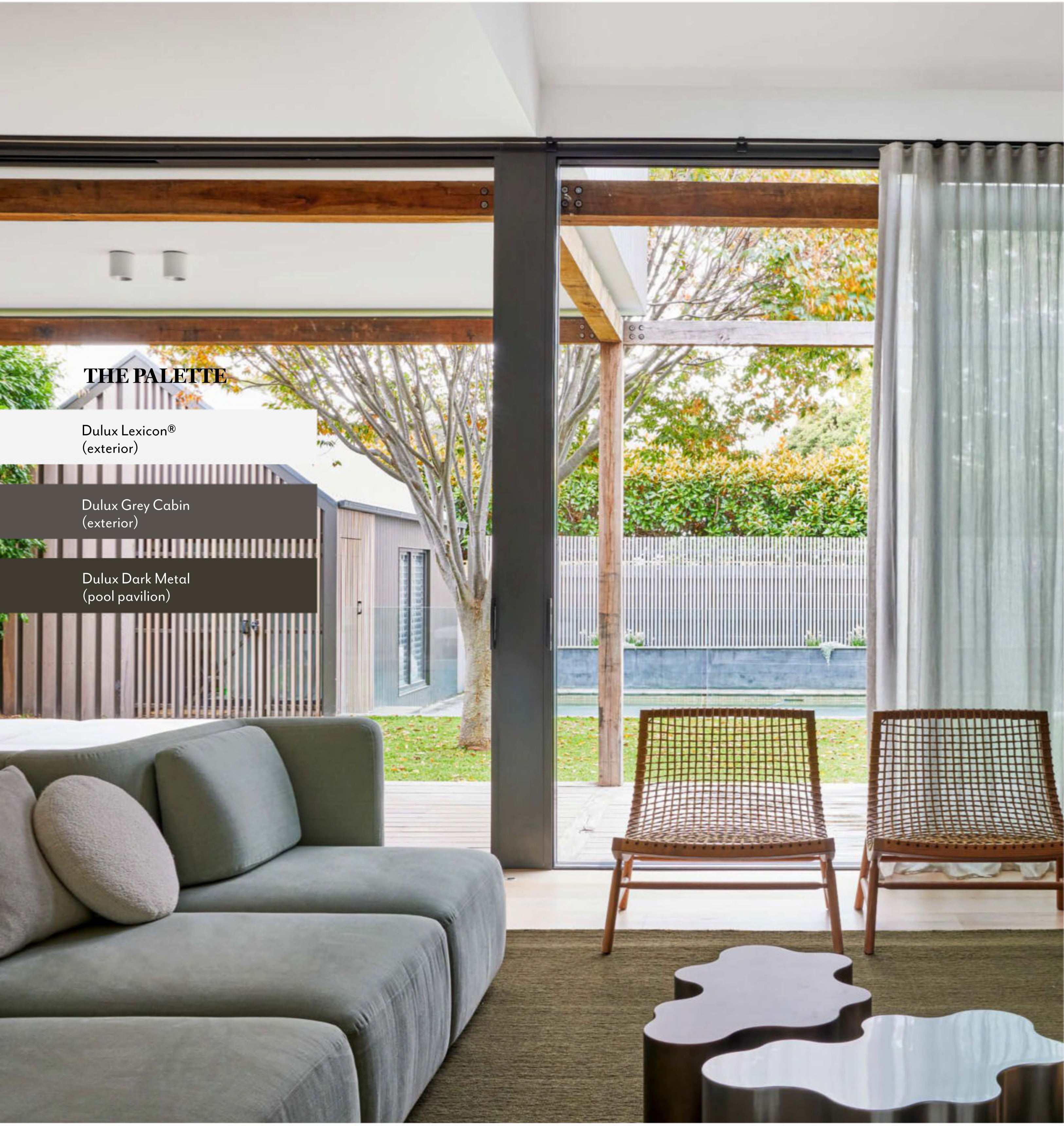
KITCHEN Joinery in George Fethers Lignapal veneer in Vibrant Oak Cool White. Benchtop and splashback in Desert concrete, Concrete Collective. DTile wall tiles, Mondopiero. Hi-Macs sink, Laminex. Tapware, Astra Walker. Cooktop and rangehood, both Winnings. **DINING** Dining table, Jardan. MDF Italia chairs, Bachli. RBW pendant light, Koda Lighting. *Colours of Bondi* artwork by Eugene Tan.

It's not often that an architect and interior designer get to reimagine a house they first worked on more than 20 years ago. But such is the case with this house in Melbourne's south-east. Interior designer Carole Whiting and her then-husband architect Steven Whiting had renovated the circa 1913 classic double-fronted home for the previous owners in the late 1990s.

When current owners Guy and Trudy bought the property in 2006, the earlier makeover with its two-storey extension at the rear was still quite fresh. "Coming from a warehouse conversion we loved the combination of a heritage home with a modern renovation and, as new parents, we needed space for our growing family," says Guy. "The renovation was fantastically practical and stylish, and we were immediately drawn to it."

Recently, however, they decided to embark on a full redesign to futureproof the home for themselves and their three sons, now ages 18, 16 and 13. “We wanted to push a few envelopes in terms of design while maintaining the heritage feel of the main rooms at the front,” says Guy. Steven and Carole had started working together again and Guy and Trudy wanted the redesign to reflect the style of the architect and designer they had admired so much.

“With three teenage boys the family needed more space. As well, the client had a large guitar collection that needed to be housed and he wanted a place to play his music away from everyone else,” says Carole. The work was also to include a large kitchen “where the family could make a mess without it being on display”, and a pool pavilion. ▶



THE PALETTE

Dulux Lexicon®
(exterior)

Dulux Grey Cabin
(exterior)

Dulux Dark Metal
(pool pavilion)

LIVING Inax 'Fabe' wall tiles, Artedomus. Curtain in Mokum 'Lino' linen in Driftwood, James Dunlop Textiles. Saba Italia 'Gala' sofa, 'Teatro Magico' coffee table, 'Sitar' side chairs, Bloc Studios bowl, and Nodi Rugs 'Mini Waffle' rug in Moss, all Bachli. RBW 'Mori' wall sconce, Koda Lighting. Lang Mursten 'Gehl' floor tiles, PGH Bricks & Pavers. Bistre 'Eterno' Grande oak flooring, Tongue & Groove. Pool pavilion painted Dulux Dark Metal.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

The existing extension was completely rebuilt and transformed into a contemporary two-storey space that acts as a counterpoint to the heritage front of the home.

Carole says her starting point is always to create a calm environment, allowing the owners the space to add their own touches. “We don’t like to dictate how the clients live, so there is a lot of collaboration and steering their brief into good design choices.”

In keeping with the owners’ wishes, a spacious pantry area was included in the kitchen design, with large sliding doors to close it off from view. The statement island bench with a tiled cube sink area absorbs the focus.

“The open-plan kitchen and living space is practical as well as light-filled and spacious,” says Guy. “The design and the colours are incredibly calming and the open view to the entire back garden is fantastic. We also love the nooks and crannies that Steven is known for – secretive windows looking down to the living space from the upstairs bedroom as well as windows in the study looking down through the house.”

Upstairs, the main bedroom is luxuriously generous in size with a private sitting area, abundant storage and a dressing room adjacent to the ensuite.

Tucked in on the stairway, opposite the entrance to the music room, is the clever storage solution that was devised for Guy’s guitar collection. The guitars are lined up in the recessed cupboard and almost doubles as an artwork when the doors are open.

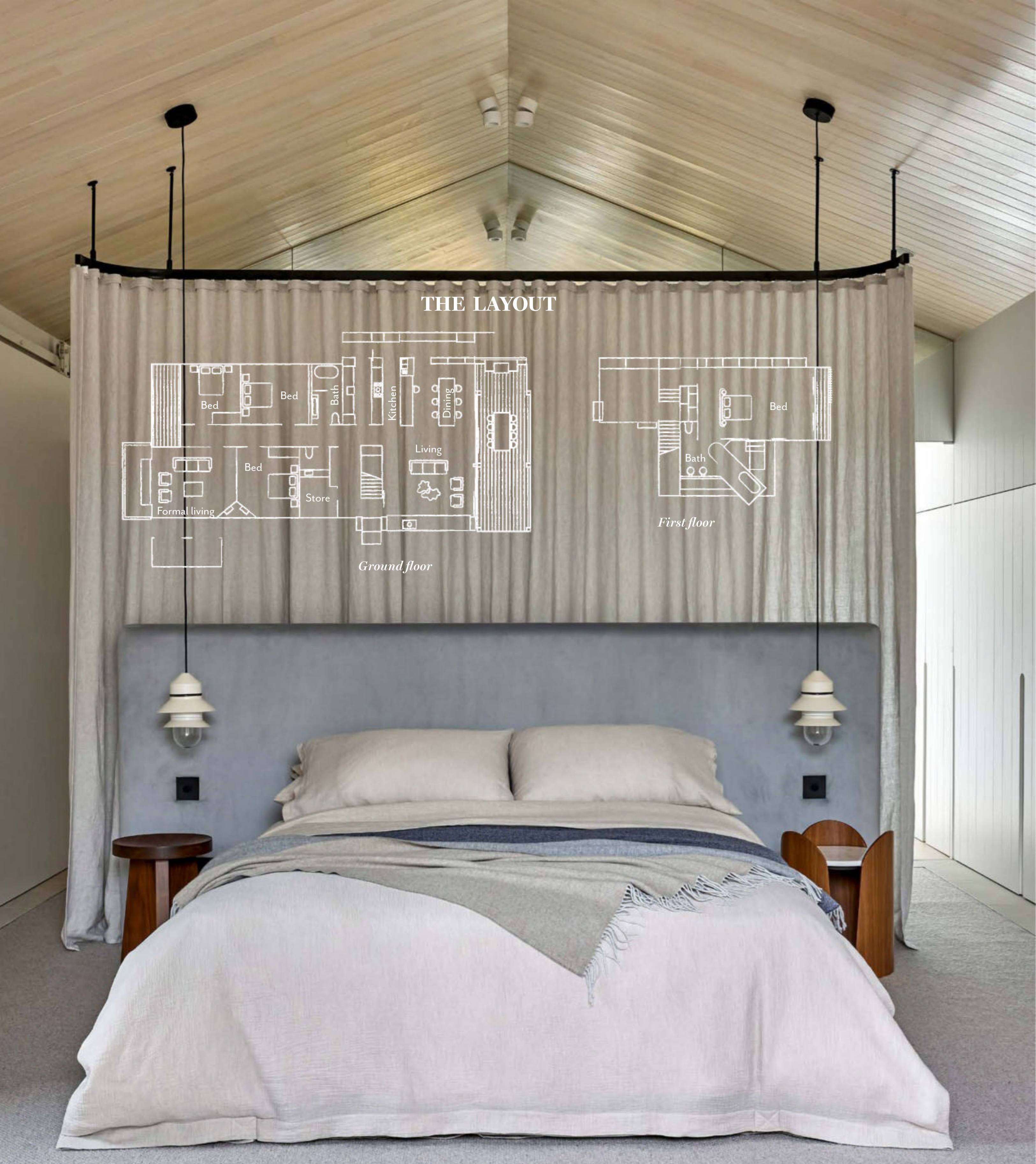
In keeping with the serene feel of the home, Dulux Lexicon Quarter graces the walls, with hints of black and pale blue for interest, whiles tiles and bricks add texture.

The owners are thoroughly delighted with their reimagined home. “It has an amazing sense of privacy,” says Guy. “The main views are directly to the back garden, which is well insulated visually with hedging on all sides. Upstairs the windows look into a tree canopy, while the bathroom windows are in fluted glass to provide privacy with no loss of light.”

He continues, “We love the fact that both Steven and Carole had done the original renovation and we were able to work with them again to bring the house into 2025. We never spoke to any other architect, we always knew that we wanted Steven and Carole to do the job, it just took us years to get to that point. The result is a truly original renovation that pushes the boundaries geometrically yet stays calm and constrained in terms of colour and finishes.” ▶

Studio Whiting: *carolewhiting.com.* ***Whiting Architects:*** *whitingarchitects.com.* ***Gili Constructions:*** *gili.com.au.*

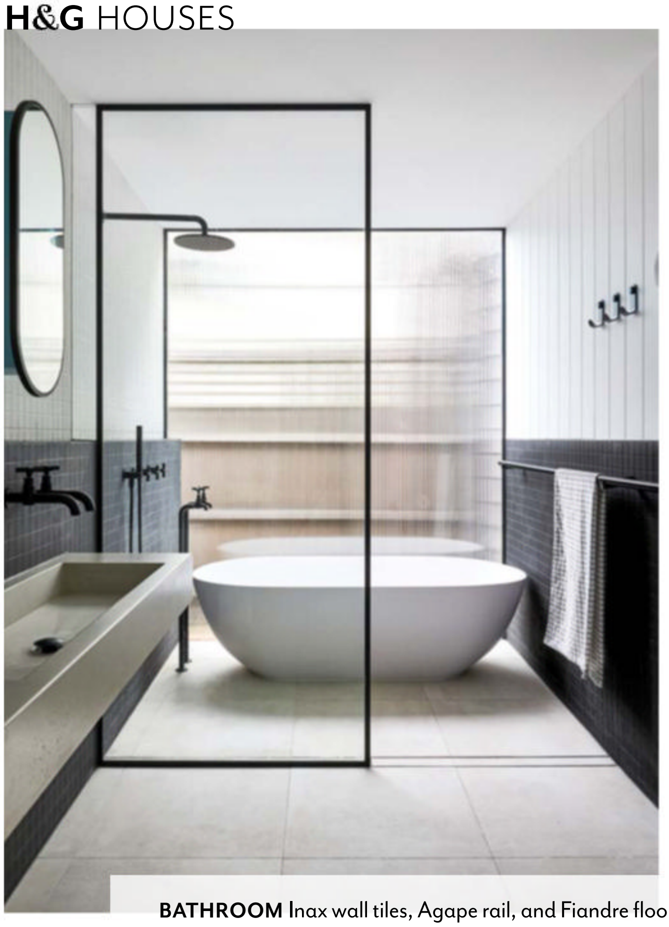
THE LAYOUT

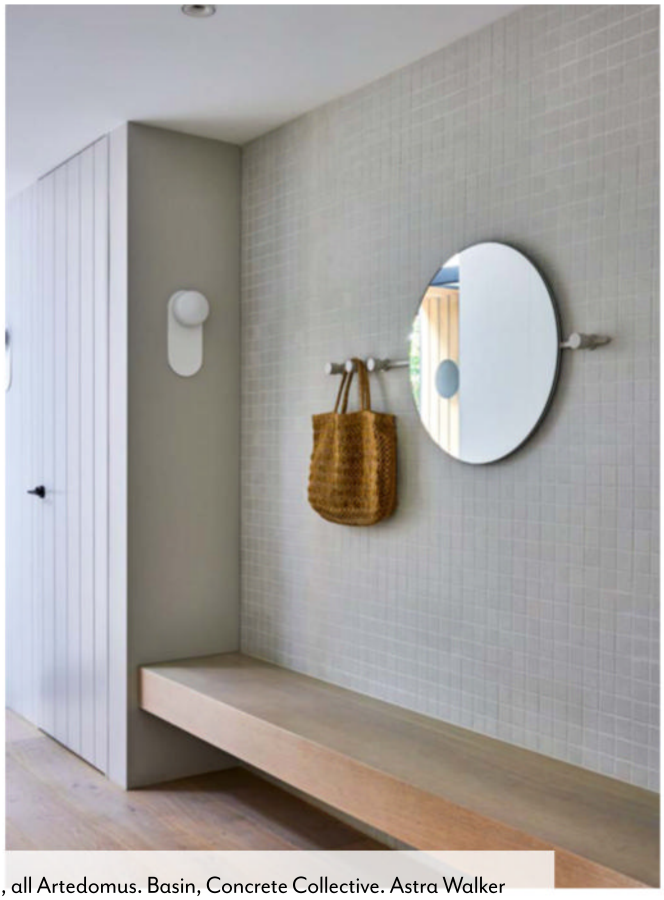

Bed
Bed
Bath
Kitchen
Dining
Living
Bed
Store
Formal living
Ground floor
Bed
Bath
First floor

MAIN BEDROOM Ceiling in Lignapal oak veneer, George Fethers. Custom bedhead, Studio Whiting. Bed linen, Abode Living. Curtain fabric in Silverdale, Unique Fabrics. Marset pendant lights, EST Lighting. Lowe Furniture stool, Bachli. Victoria Carpets 'Everest' carpet in Mirage, Carpet Court. **ENSUITE/WALK-IN ROBE** Splashback in Vagli Oro marble; Agape 'Dot Line' rail in Oak, and Fiandre floor tiles, all Artedomus. Nagoya 'Iriede' wall tiles in Sand and Blossom, Academy Tiles. 'Halo' basins and 'Eve' bath, United Products. Astra Walker tapware, and Brodware towel rail, Mary Noall. 'Terra O' wall light, Marz Designs. Moller bench seat, In Good Company. Curtain in Mokum 'Satori Stonewash' in Chalk, James Dunlop Textiles.

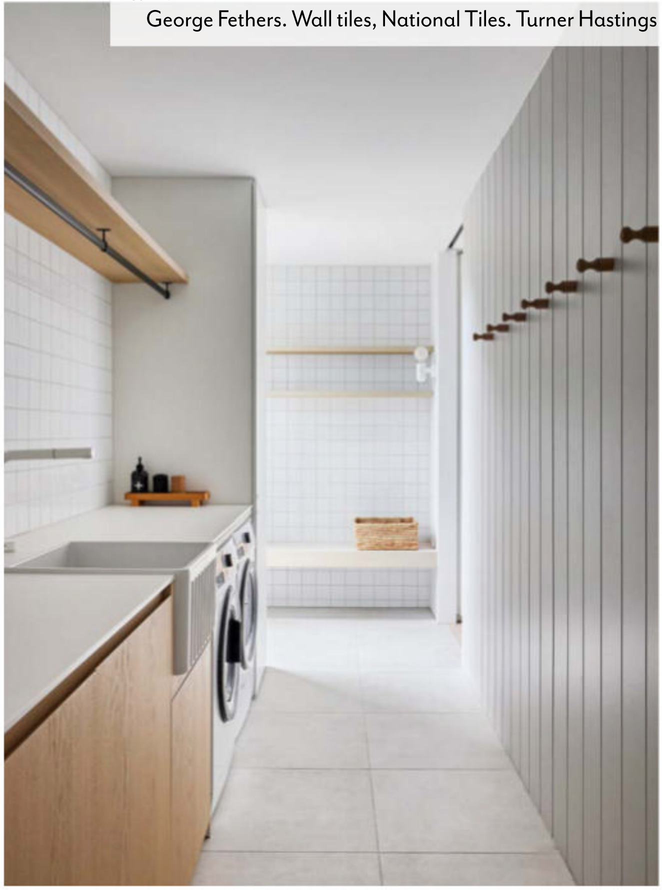
THIS IS THE LIFE

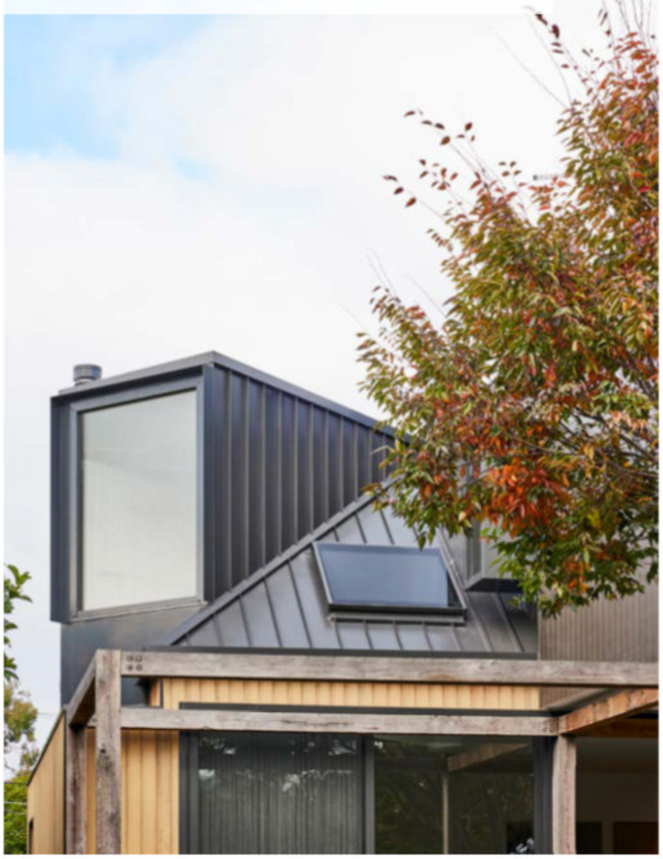
The new extension has revitalised this family home, providing space and facility for Guy and Trudy and their teenage sons. The spacious pantry area that can be completely closed off with large sliding doors is a game-changer. "The boys can make toast or coffee and leave a mess without it having any impact on the amenity of the rear living space," says Carole.





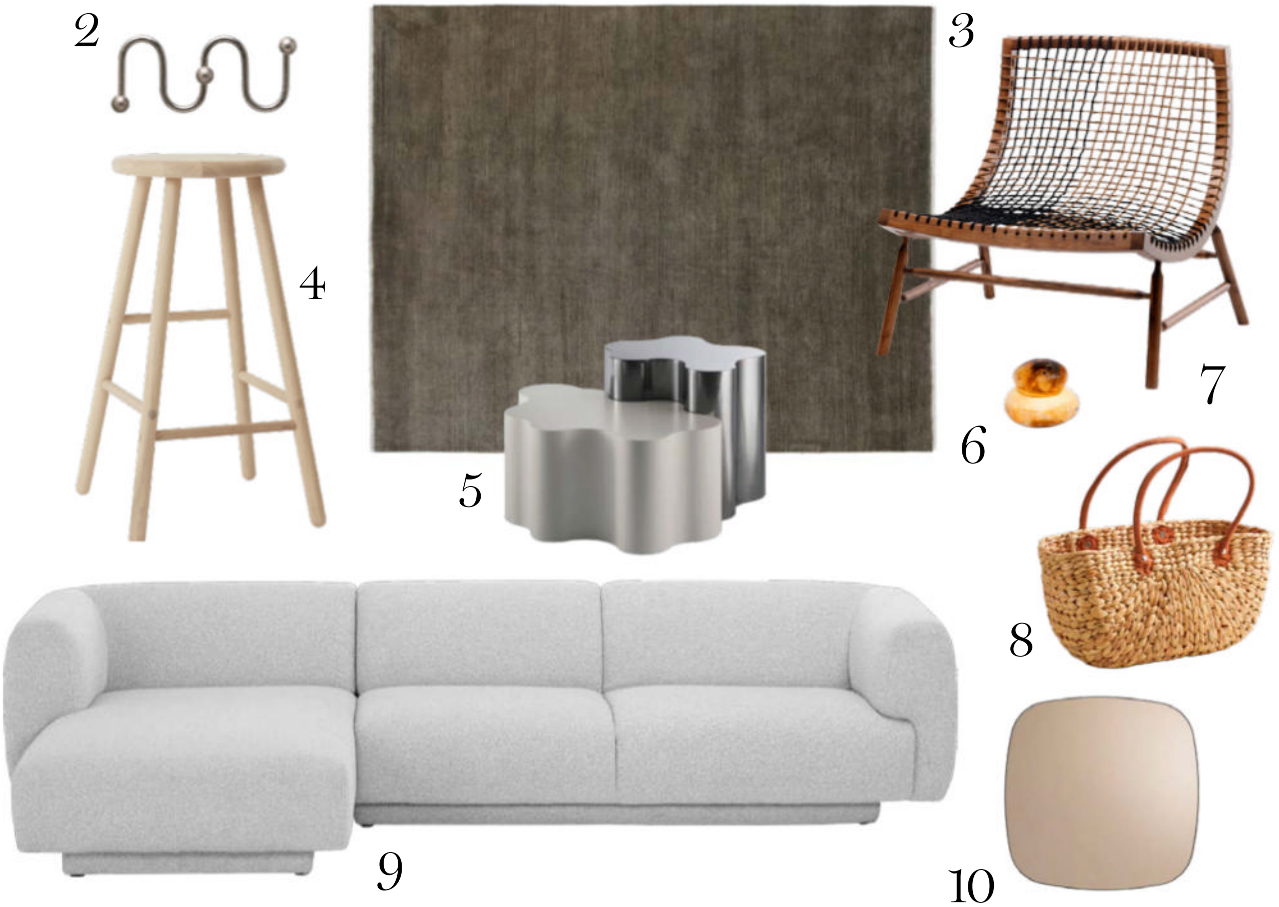
BATHROOM Inax wall tiles, Agape rail, and Fiandre floor tiles, all Artedomus. Basin, Concrete Collective. Astra Walker tapware and Kaskade bath, both Mary Noall. **MUDROOM** Inax wall tiles, Artedomus. Sconce, Koda Lighting. Mirror, Grazia & Co. **EXTERIOR** Mixed materials create interest. **LAUNDRY** Maximus Ice porcelain panels, Artedomus. Lignapal oak veneer, George Fethers. Wall tiles, National Tiles. Turner Hastings sink, Mary Noall. Astra Walker tapware. Wall light, ISM Objects.





THE SOURCE

Create calming interiors with a soft, neutral palette, adding personality with organic shapes and textures.



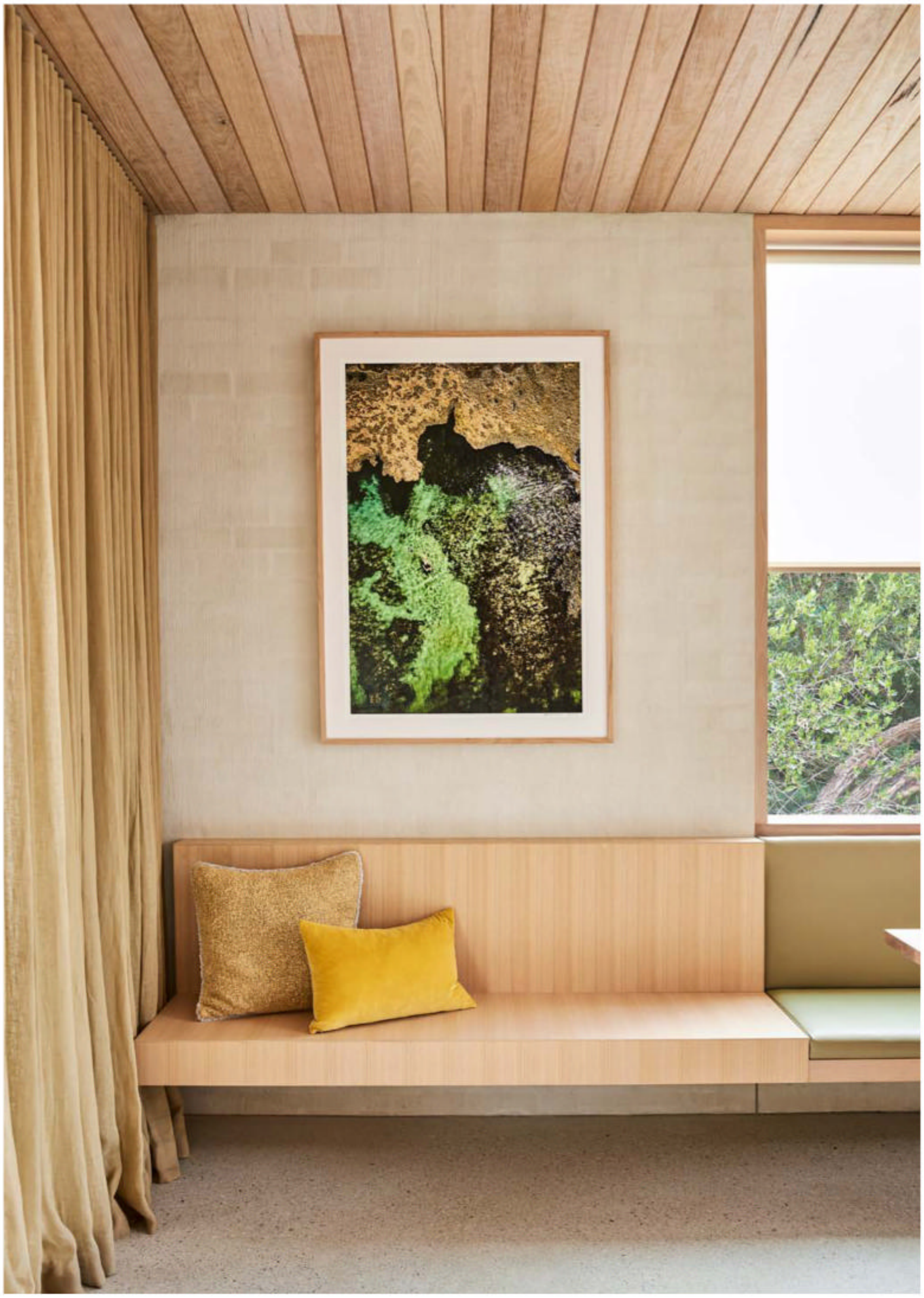
1 'Xhosa' reed gourd **basket**, $480, PanAfter. **2** 'Sphere' **hook** in Tumbled Nickel, $254/XL, Lo & Co. **3** 'Agra' **rug** in Thistle (300x240cm), $500, Armadillo. **4** OYOY 'Moto' **stool**, $534.95, Nordic Fusion. **5** Saba Italia 'Teatro Magico' **tables**, POA, Bachli. **6** 'Pebble' **jar**, $130/medium, Dinosaur Designs. **7** Saba Italia 'Sitar' **outdoor chair**, POA, Bachli. **8** Salisbury & Co 'Province' **carry basket** with suede handle in Natural, $49.95, Kitchen Warehouse. **9** 'Arendal' three-seater **lounge** with chaise, $3699, Domayne. **10** 'Audrey' **mirror**, $4990, Poliform. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

Here comes the sun

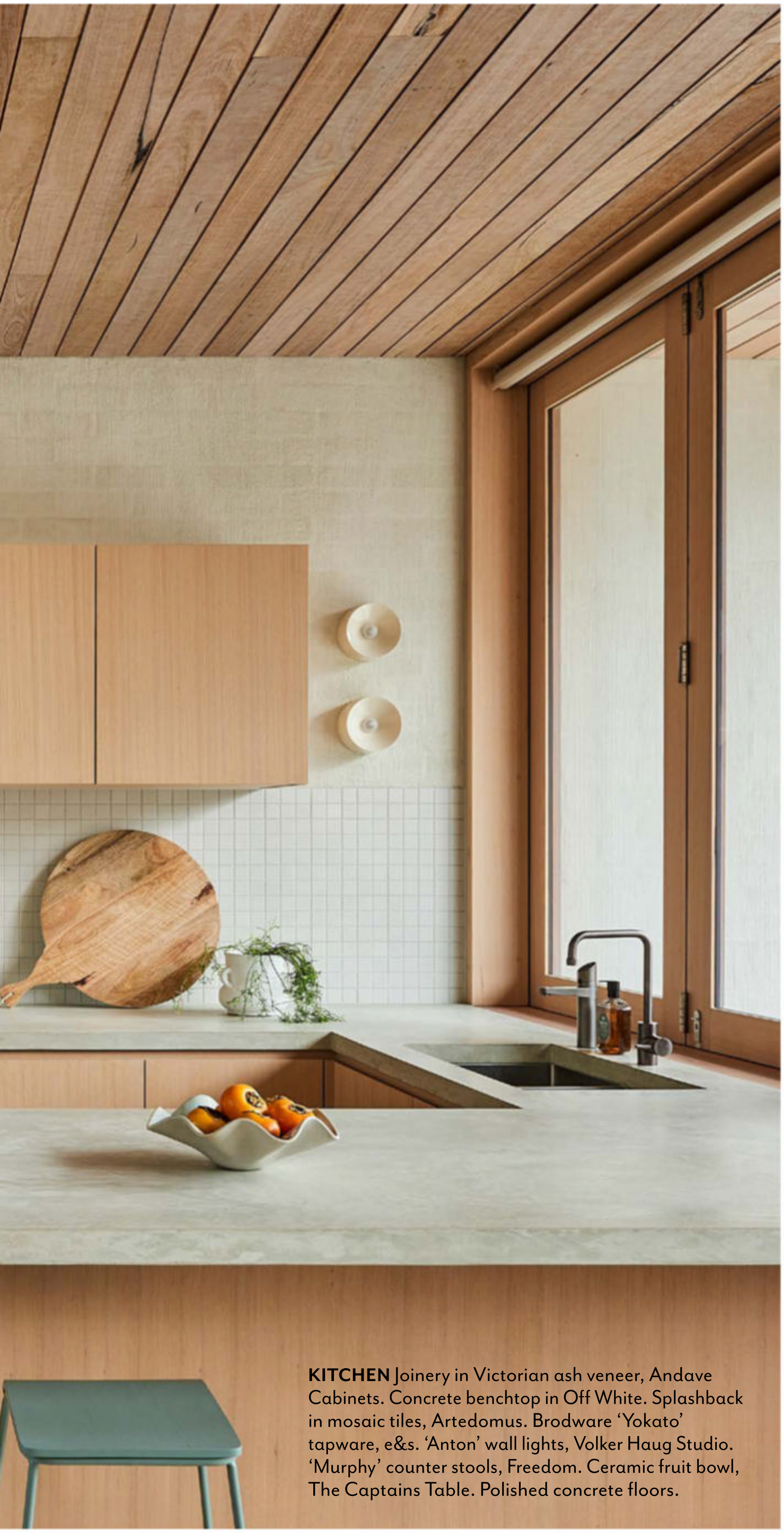
A weekender on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula makes way for a contemporary yet relaxed family beach retreat with a hint of retro cool.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Nikole Ramsay*



DINING A banquette is an inspired seating solution for entertaining large numbers. Curtain in 'Laconia Air' linen in Dijon, James Dunlop Textiles. *Beneath The Surface* by Nikole Ramsay. Bench in Tasmanian oak and Pelle Leathers 'Savannah' Commando semi-aniline leather. Cushions, Kip&Co. **EXTERIOR** A sliding door and a simple hardwood deck welcome visitors to this idyllic coastal retreat. Landscaping by Renata Fairhall Garden Designs. 'Havsten' armchair and 'Krokholmen' coffee table, both IKEA. Outdoor lights, Inlite.

“I hadn’t considered rendered-brick walls, but I said ‘go for it’, and I am thrilled with the results.” NICOLE, OWNER



KITCHEN Joinery in Victorian ash veneer, Andave Cabinets. Concrete benchtop in Off White. Splashback in mosaic tiles, Artedomus. Brodware 'Yokato' tapware, e&s. 'Anton' wall lights, Volker Haug Studio. 'Murphy' counter stools, Freedom. Ceramic fruit bowl, The Captains Table. Polished concrete floors.

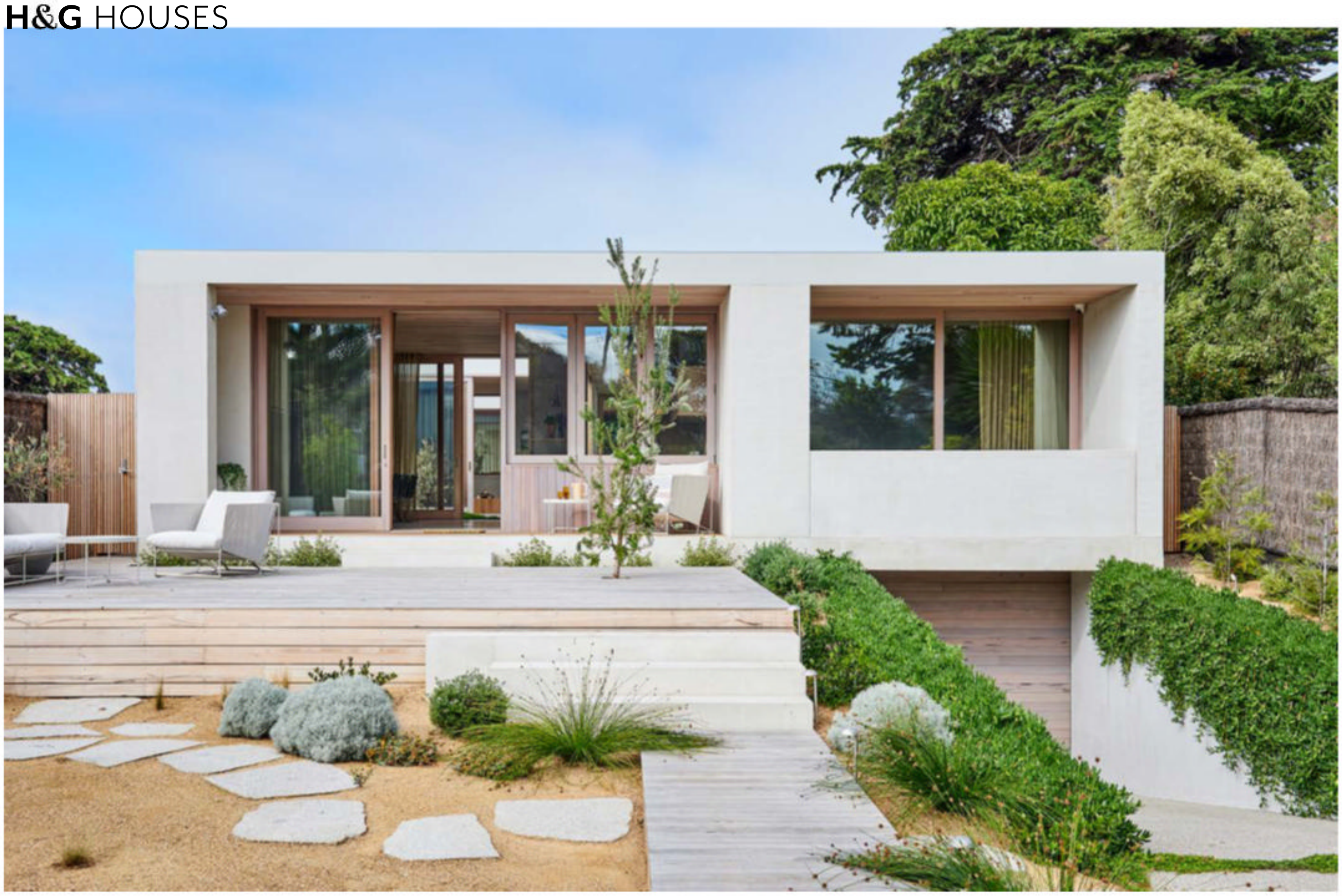
Forget formality – a simple sliding glass door, usually open, welcomes visitors to owner Nicole's coastal retreat in Victoria. She kicks off her shoes with friends and family, keen to share some barefoot bliss in this contemporary take on the classic beach house.

Nicole bought the property in 2020, having rented the former weekender on the site for the previous three years. A stone's throw from the beach, a stroll to town and set well back from the street, the location ticked all the boxes but the house was deficient for her, her two sons, now 22 and 21, and daughter, now 15. Most notably, it lacked a garage, with nowhere to store a jet scooter "and all the other recreational stuff you need at a beach house". So she brought in the bulldozer and started afresh.

Browsing Pinterest for inspiration, Nicole discovered the work of architect Rob Kennon, drawn to his relaxed designs optimising natural materials. The brief she gave him? "I wanted a serene feeling, like my own yoga studio, a wellness retreat, where you remove your shoes and take a deep breath when you walk in, with lots of light and massive windows to bring the outside in. And with no formal entry – you just slide open the door and walk in." Also on the wish-list were communal and breakaway spaces for all the family, together with a sizeable garage.

But the brief's omissions were as noteworthy as its inclusions. Her new weekender also had to be "minimalist and fuss-free", so, contrary to common wisdom, it had to eschew the ever-popular walk-in robe, walk-in pantry and generous shelving. "If you have a lot of storage space, you will fill it," says Nicole. "This was to be like my own Airbnb, with not much personal stuff. It keeps things simple."

Rob designed a home with two distinct sections. The living and the dining/kitchen, separated by a recessed garden, together with the main bedroom and ensuite, share the northern side. Meanwhile, across a covered walkway sit three bedrooms, a rumpus and an outside area for the children and guests. "It was to be an adult house," says Rob, ▶



"but where the children could come and go independently, with the back disconnected from the front, where you walk outside to get from one to the other." Nicole adds, "We can come together when we want or disappear into our own spaces."

Excavating deep into the site yielded a basement, providing the generous garage she wanted, with half the space devoted to a fully equipped gym.

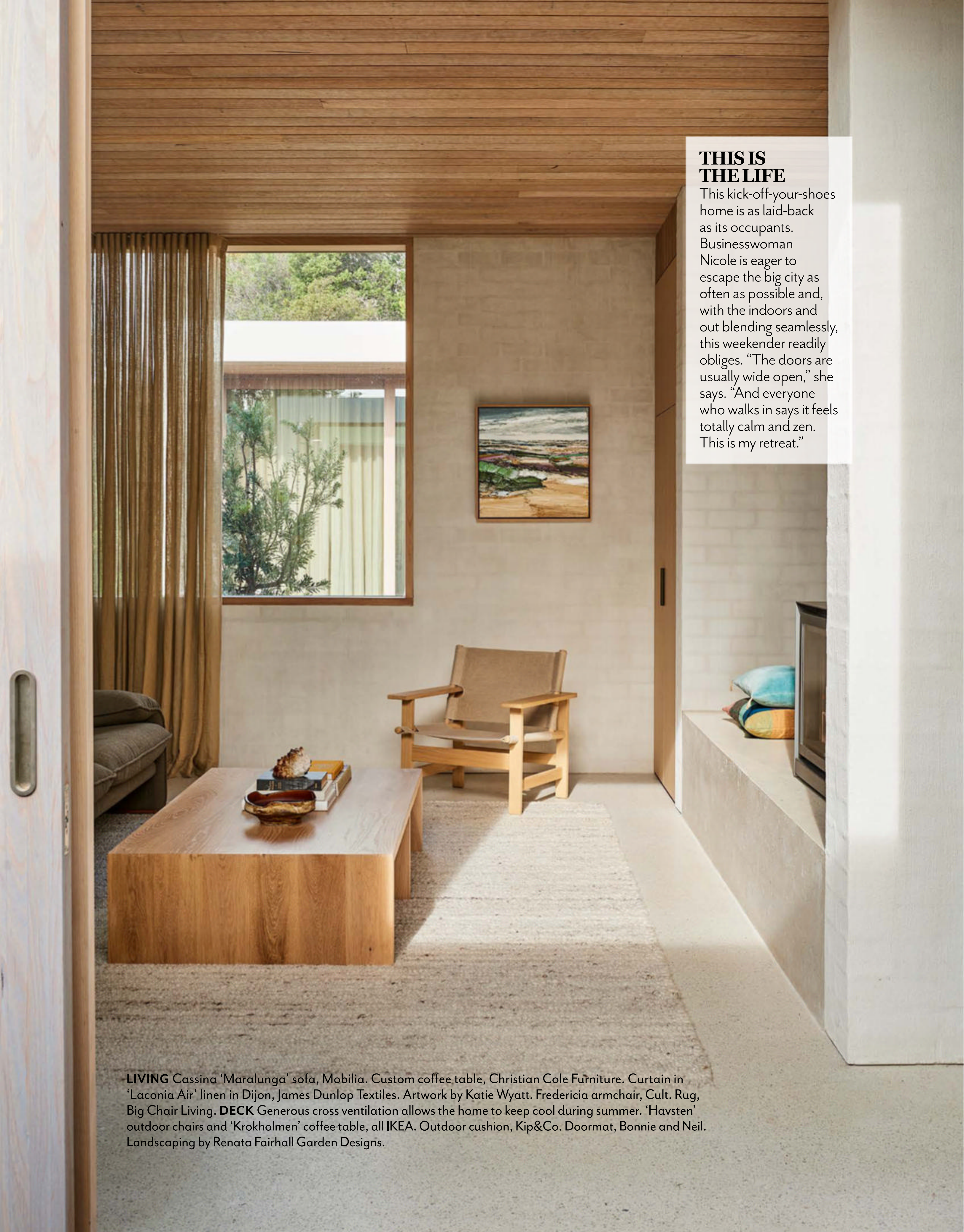
Materials include, in true Mid-century style, Victorian ash ceilings and polished concrete with white aggregate added for pizzazz, while rendered brick walls flow inside and out ("visitors love running their hands across them", says Nicole). "Natural materials appealed – pared back, robust and minimal, with nothing elaborate, at home in their surroundings and with elements of surprise as you walk through," she says. "There's a softness and a level of imperfection, with textre and tonal shifts, which grounds the building," says Rob.

By extension, natural hues such as sand, ochre, caramel and chocolate in the living areas and bedrooms, and olive green in the bathrooms, all take their cue from the beach and bushland beyond. And the garden, fashioned by Renata Fairhall, bursts with natives such as banksias and grevilleas. "I was keen to attract birds," says Nicole, and frequent visitors such as wattlebirds, kookaburras and rainbow lorikeets revel in the setting.

The laid-back furniture selection was undertaken by Nicole and Monique Woods from Rob Kennon Architects, with the soft Cassina 'Maralunga' sofa a stand-out ("I have always wanted one of those," she says), together with Jardan pieces ("They get the relaxed feel so well") and a classic Fredericia canvas chair, perfect for a shoes-off, shoreline ambience. They are complemented by a custom American oak dining table and coffee table, both designed by Rob and made by Christian Cole.

While the focus may appear to be on summer, this is a house for all seasons with year-round allure. In the warmer months, Nicole loves whiling away the hours on the front deck with a cup of tea, dangling her legs over the side and soaking up the garden. Meanwhile, in winter, she retreats to the living room, getting cosy by its fireplace. "There's a wonderful calmness to the house, with individual spaces for different experiences," says Rob. ▶

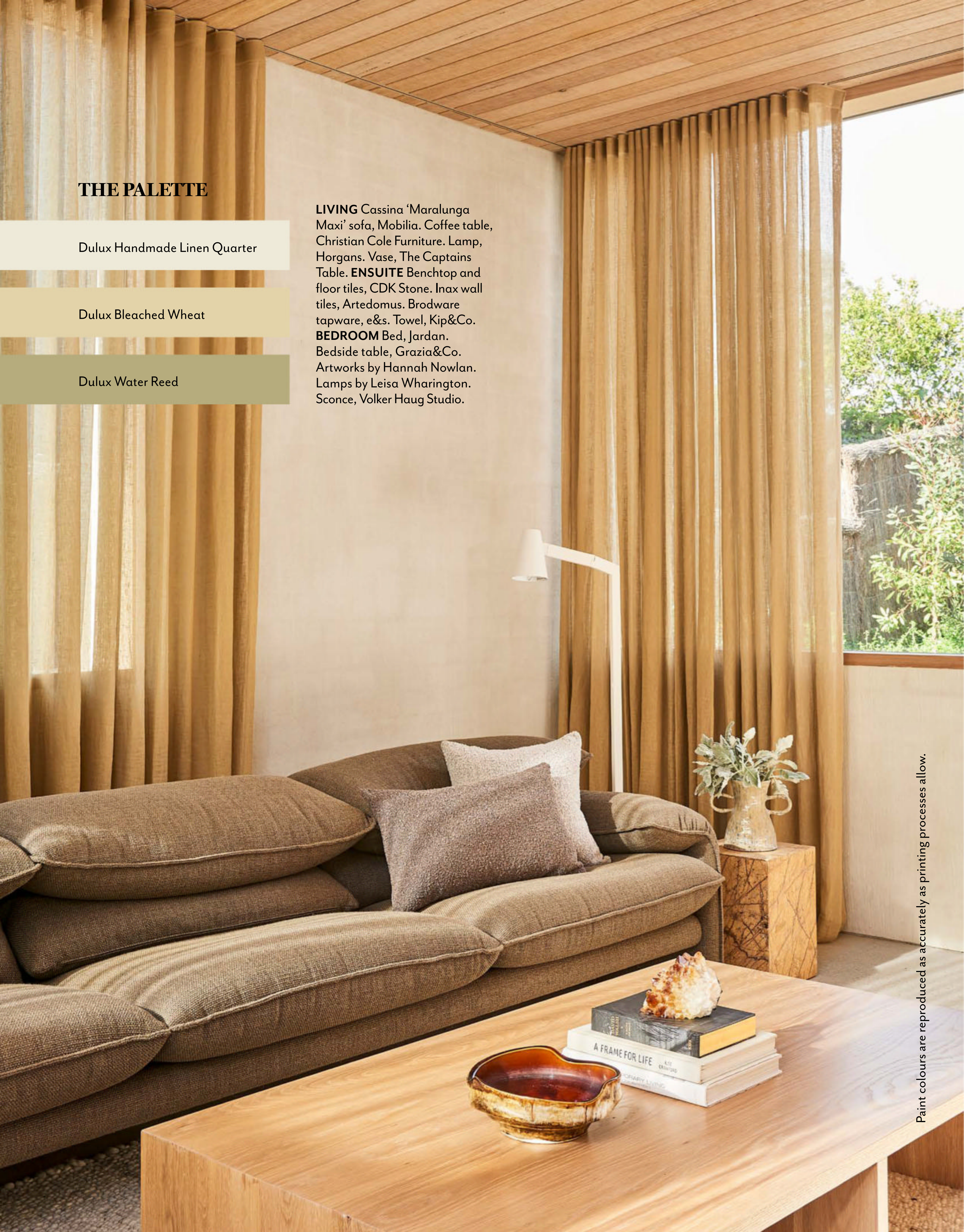
***Rob Kennon Architects:** robkennon.com.*
Bartlett Architectural Construction:
bartlettconstructions.com.au.



THIS IS THE LIFE

This kick-off-your-shoes home is as laid-back as its occupants. Businesswoman Nicole is eager to escape the big city as often as possible and, with the indoors and out blending seamlessly, this weekender readily obliges. "The doors are usually wide open," she says. "And everyone who walks in says it feels totally calm and zen. This is my retreat."

LIVING Cassina 'Maralunga' sofa, Mobilia. Custom coffee table, Christian Cole Furniture. Curtain in 'Laconia Air' linen in Dijon, James Dunlop Textiles. Artwork by Katie Wyatt. Fredericia armchair, Cult. Rug, Big Chair Living. **DECK** Generous cross ventilation allows the home to keep cool during summer. 'Havsten' outdoor chairs and 'Krokholmen' coffee table, all IKEA. Outdoor cushion, Kip&Co. Doormat, Bonnie and Neil. Landscaping by Renata Fairhall Garden Designs.

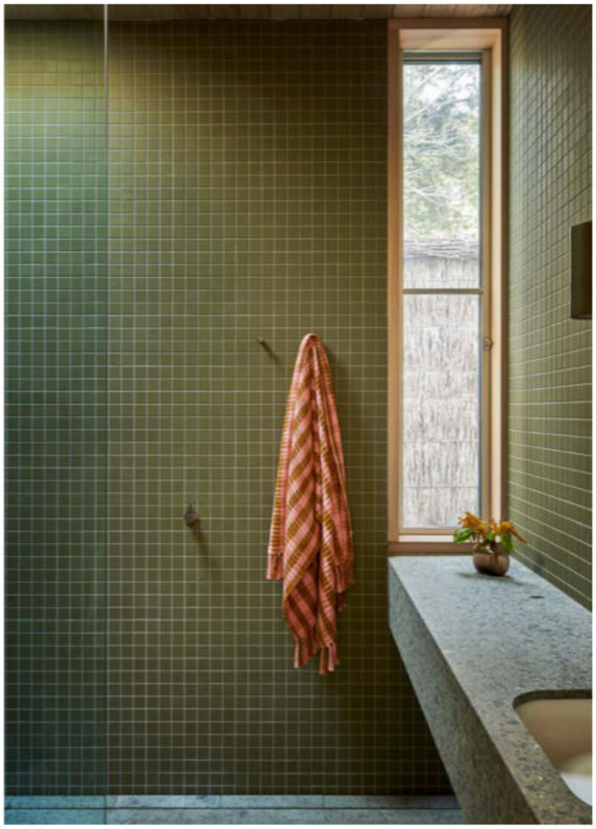


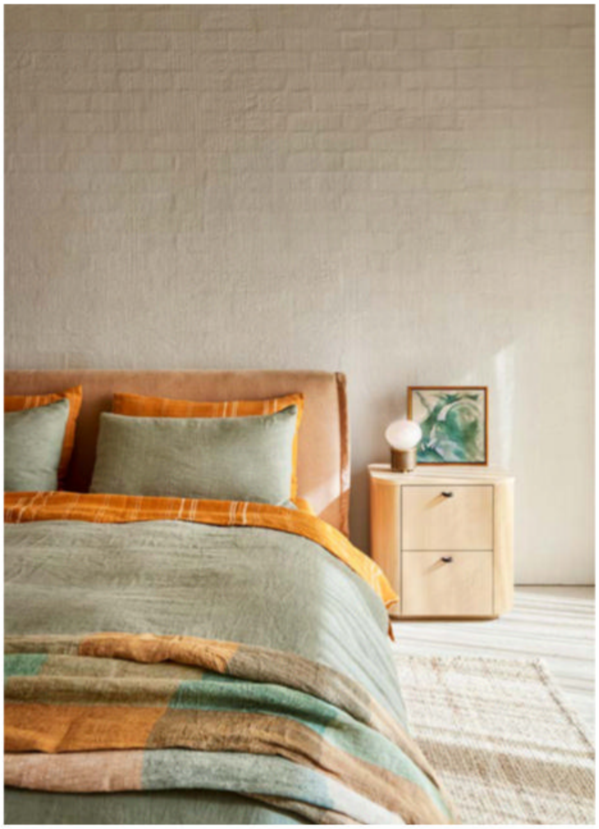
THE PALETTE

- Dulux Handmade Linen Quarter
- Dulux Bleached Wheat
- Dulux Water Reed

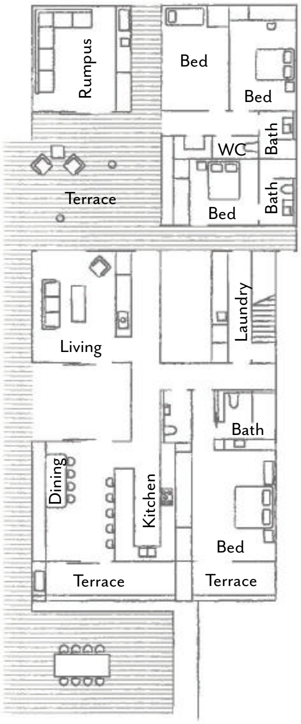
LIVING Cassina 'Maralunga Maxi' sofa, Mobilia. Coffee table, Christian Cole Furniture. Lamp, Horgans. Vase, The Captains Table. **ENSUITE** Benchtop and floor tiles, CDK Stone. Inax wall tiles, Artedomus. Brodware tapware, e&s. Towel, Kip&Co. **BEDROOM** Bed, Jardan. Bedside table, Grazia&Co. Artworks by Hannah Nowlan. Lamps by Leisa Wharington. Sconce, Volker Haug Studio.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

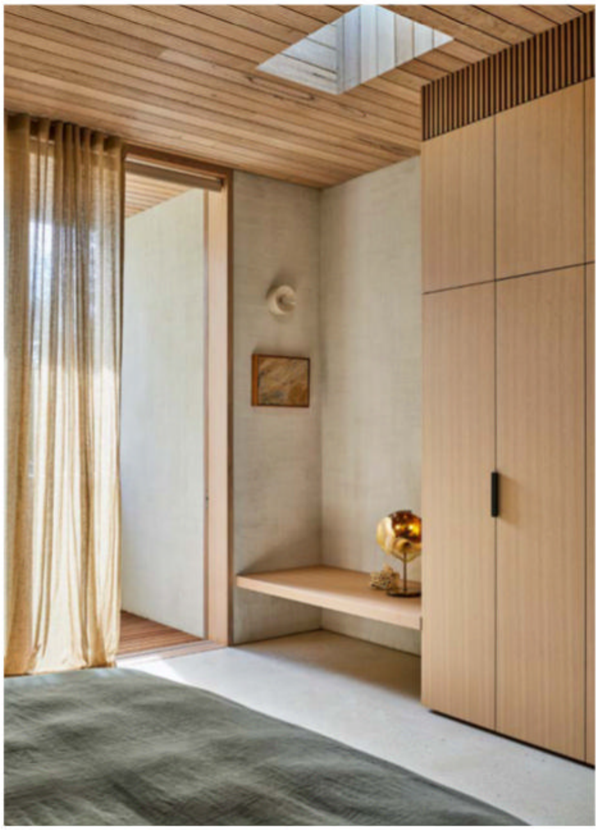




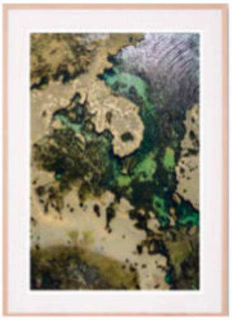
THE LAYOUT


Rumpus
Bed
Bed
WC
Bath
Bath
Terrace
Bed
Living
Laundry
Bath
Dining
Kitchen
Bed
Terrace
Terrace

Ground floor

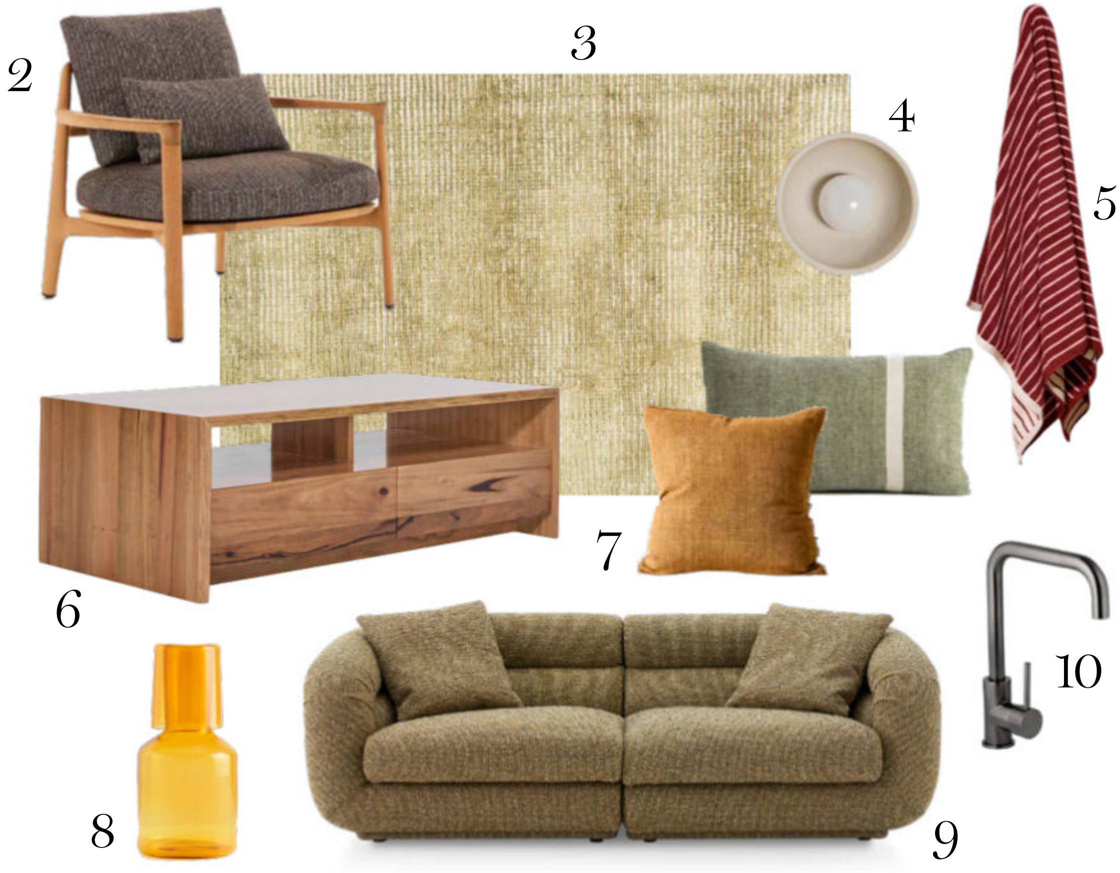


TERRACE 'Manly' three-piece outdoor setting, Freedom.



THE SOURCE

Take on relaxed coastal Aussie style by pairing simple silhouettes with a palette of warm olive, ochre and browns.



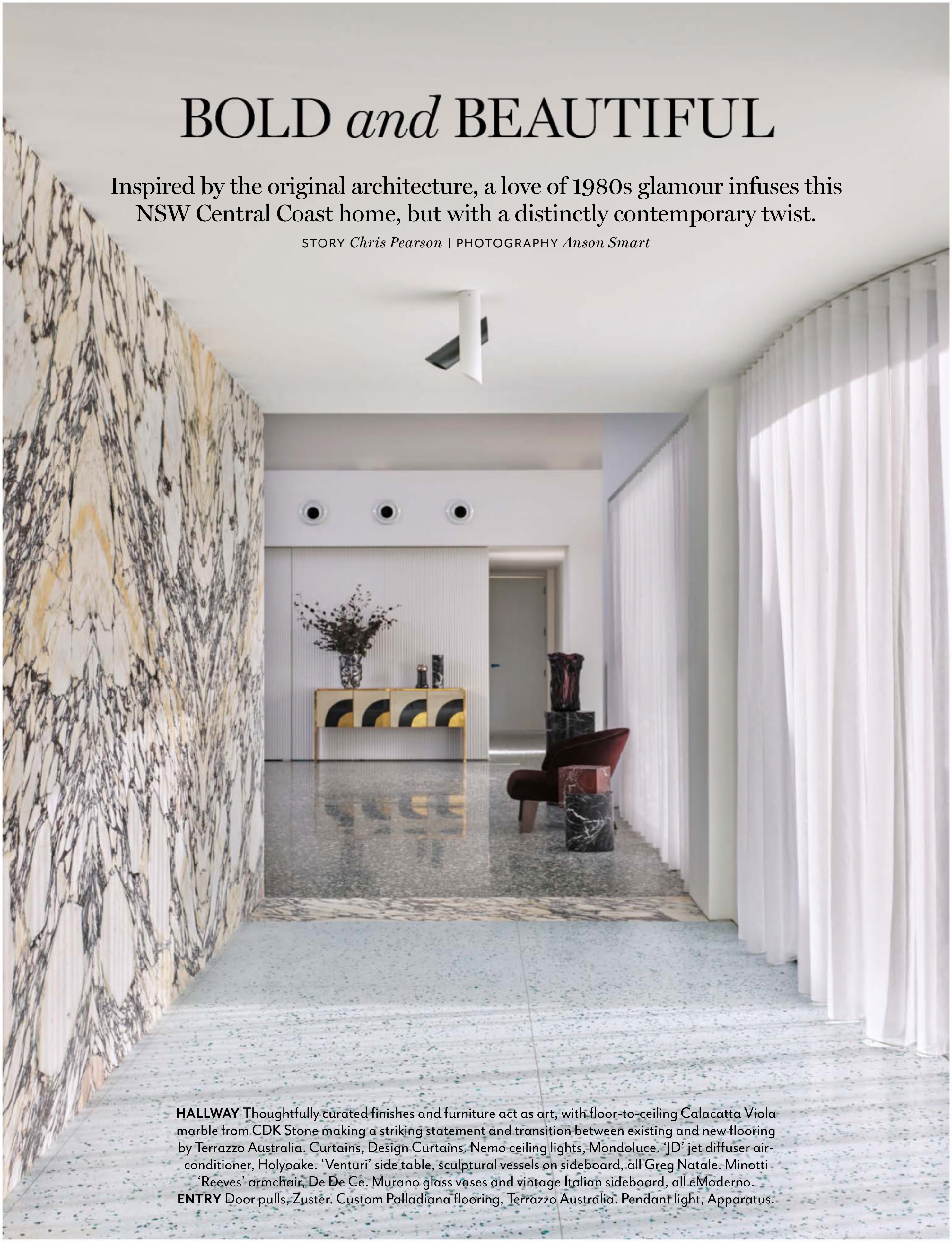
1 *Point Lonsdale Rock Pools* limited edition **photographic print**, $1550, Nikole Ramsay. **2** 'Magnolia' **armchair** by Emmanuel Gallina, POA, Poliform. **3** Colorscope by Cadrys 'Elements' **rug** in Olive (300x200cm), $2349, Freedom. **4** Studiojos 'Scotopia' **wall light**, POA, Freeman Gallery. **5** 'Bambi Stripe' **bath sheet** in Burgundy, Warm White and Pink Lotus, $70, Sheet Society. **6** 'Melba' **coffee table**, $1299, OZ Design. **7** Aura Home vintage linen fringe **cushion** in Bronze, $79, and herringbone rectangle **cushion** in Khaki, $69.95, both Myer. **8** Maison Balzac 'J'ai Soif' **carafe and glass** in Miel, $89, David Jones. **9** 'Solari' three-seater **sofa** in Margot Performance Fabric in Olive, $2998, Castlery. **10** 'Eden Square' **kitchen mixer** in Brushed Gunmetal, $305, ABI Interiors. **H&G**

Produced by Bethan Lacoba.

BOLD *and* BEAUTIFUL

Inspired by the original architecture, a love of 1980s glamour infuses this NSW Central Coast home, but with a distinctly contemporary twist.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Anson Smart*

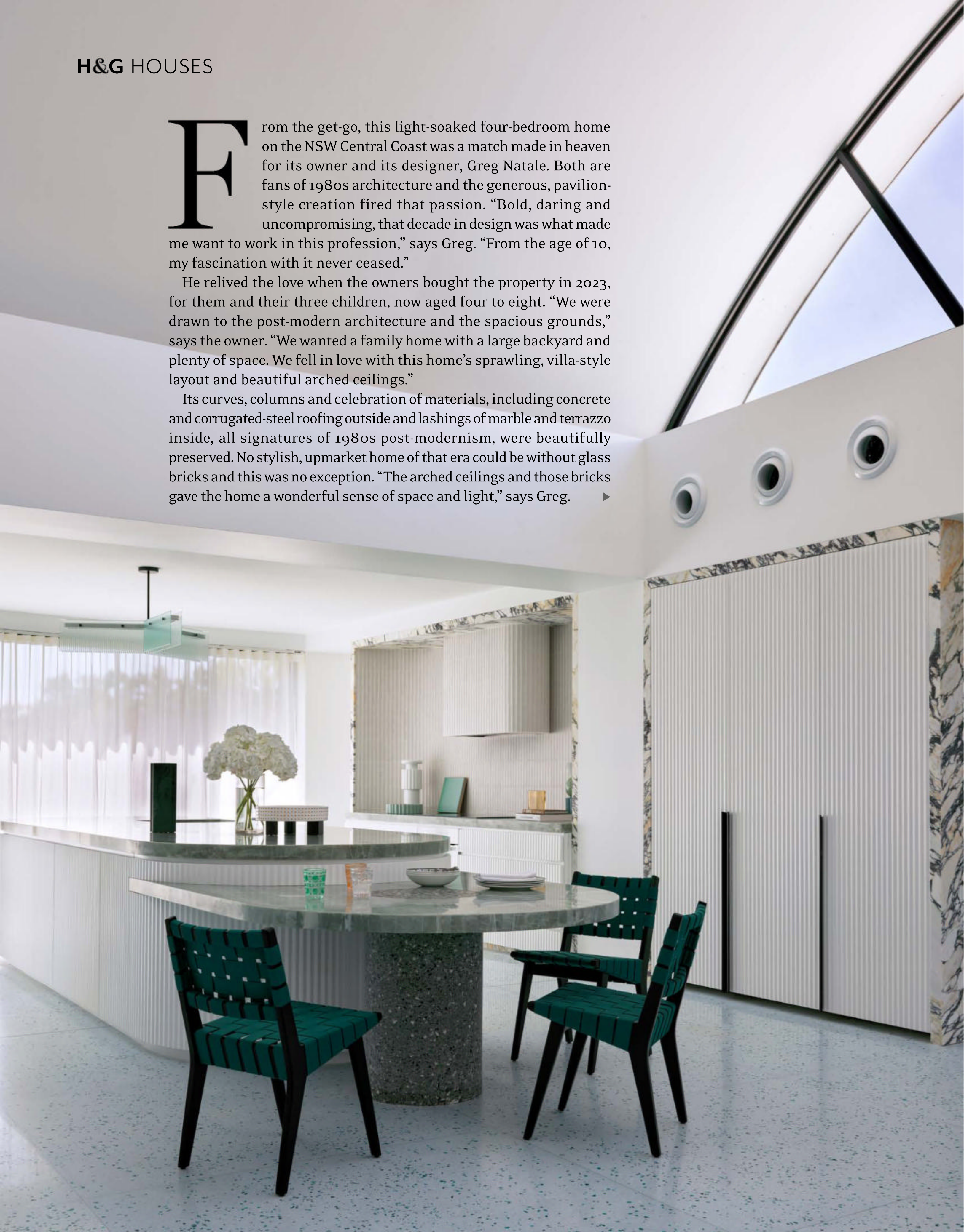


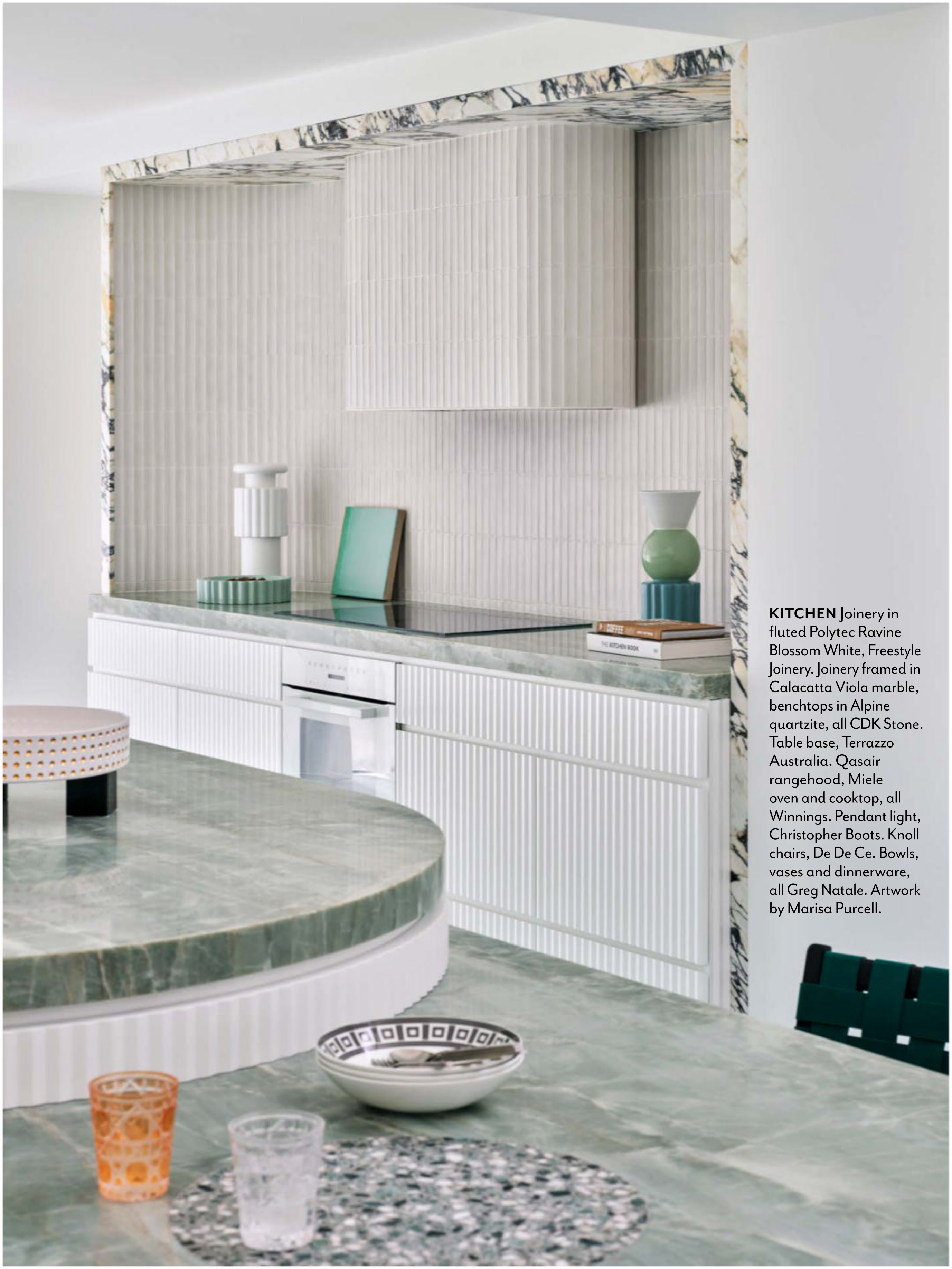
HALLWAY Thoughtfully curated finishes and furniture act as art, with floor-to-ceiling Calacatta Viola marble from CDK Stone making a striking statement and transition between existing and new flooring by Terrazzo Australia. Curtains, Design Curtains. Nemo ceiling lights, Mondoluce. 'JD' jet diffuser air-conditioner, Holyoake. 'Venturi' side table, sculptural vessels on sideboard, all Greg Natale. Minotti 'Reeves' armchair, De De Ce. Murano glass vases and vintage Italian sideboard, all eModerno. **ENTRY** Door pulls, Zuster. Custom Palladiana flooring, Terrazzo Australia. Pendant light, Apparatus.

From the get-go, this light-soaked four-bedroom home on the NSW Central Coast was a match made in heaven for its owner and its designer, Greg Natale. Both are fans of 1980s architecture and the generous, pavilion-style creation fired that passion. "Bold, daring and uncompromising, that decade in design was what made me want to work in this profession," says Greg. "From the age of 10, my fascination with it never ceased."

He relived the love when the owners bought the property in 2023, for them and their three children, now aged four to eight. "We were drawn to the post-modern architecture and the spacious grounds," says the owner. "We wanted a family home with a large backyard and plenty of space. We fell in love with this home's sprawling, villa-style layout and beautiful arched ceilings."

Its curves, columns and celebration of materials, including concrete and corrugated-steel roofing outside and lashings of marble and terrazzo inside, all signatures of 1980s post-modernism, were beautifully preserved. No stylish, upmarket home of that era could be without glass bricks and this was no exception. "The arched ceilings and those bricks gave the home a wonderful sense of space and light," says Greg. ▶





KITCHEN Joinery in fluted Polytec Ravine Blossom White, Freestyle Joinery. Joinery framed in Calacatta Viola marble, benchtops in Alpine quartzite, all CDK Stone. Table base, Terrazzo Australia. Qasair rangehood, Miele oven and cooktop, all Winnings. Pendant light, Christopher Boots. Knoll chairs, De De Ce. Bowls, vases and dinnerware, all Greg Natale. Artwork by Marisa Purcell.

Generally, the carefully considered layout worked well. The home is in three distinct sections, with the open-plan living areas in the centre, while the main bedroom suite sits to the right of the entry, well away from the three children's bedrooms, which share the opposing wing with the study. But the house also came with baggage. "The amenities were not there," says Greg. Its worst sins were that the entry from the garage was through the main ensuite, the token kitchen had no separate pantry, the dressing room was poky and, inexplicably, there was no air-conditioning. "While we loved the original layout, we needed a home that better suited modern family living," says the owner. "The kitchen was far too small – we wanted a show kitchen, but with an island for casual dining when it's just us and the kids."

He and his wife specified "warm, layered and refined spaces, where contemporary elements coexist with classic materials and vintage influences. Our brief centred around lots of marble, specifically green and purple marbles like Verde Alpi and Calacatta Viola," he says. "A marble bath in our ensuite was also a must. To balance the rich materiality, we wanted stylish, modern furniture."

Greg made few structural changes, one of the most significant being the creation of a corridor joining the garage to the living areas, achieved by realigning the powder room. In the open plan, he created a kitchen pod, complete with a butler's pantry tucked discreetly in the middle. He also retro-fitted air-conditioning within the existing bulkheads, which, he says, was arguably the biggest challenge of the project.

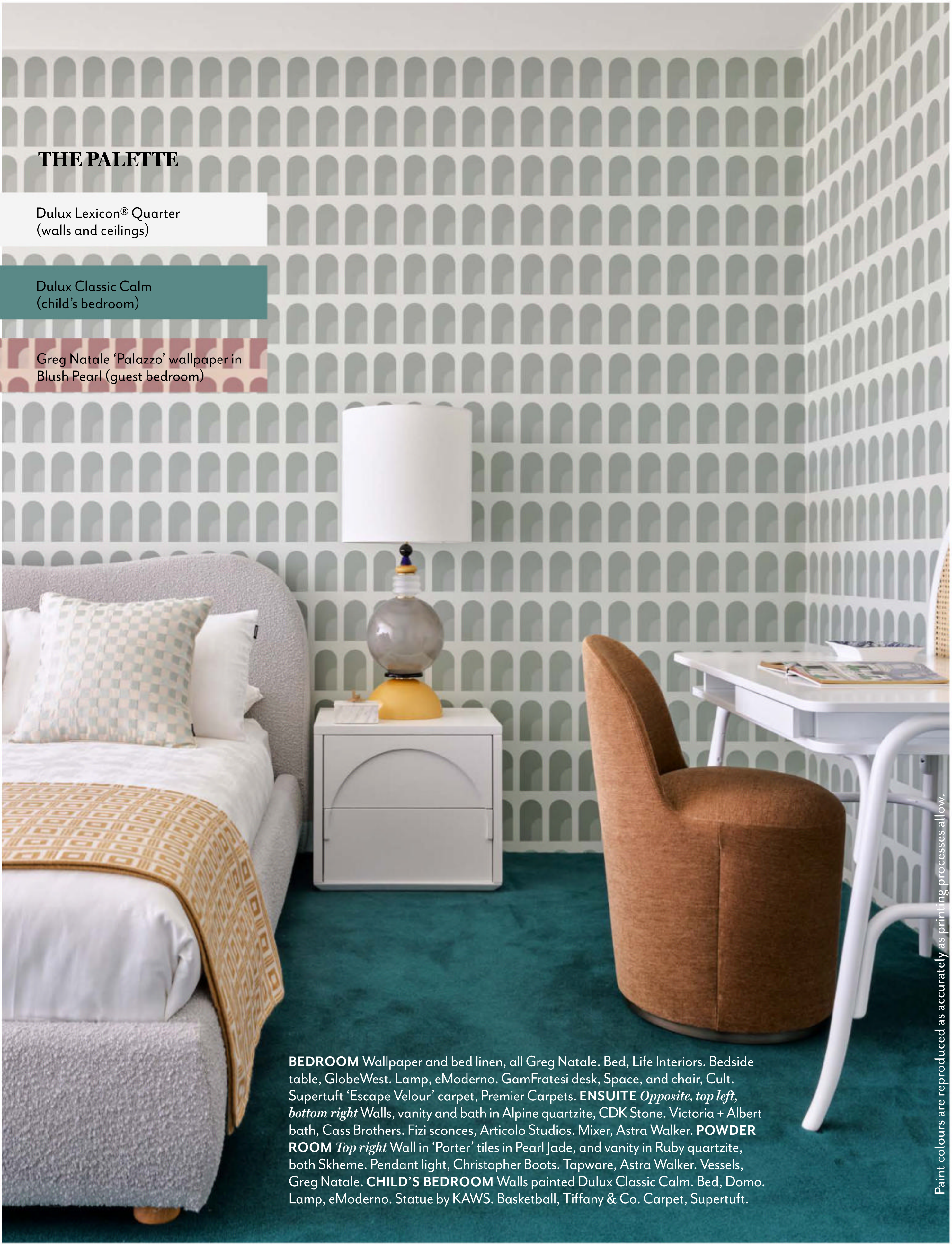
Trademark terrazzo flooring and glass brick dividing walls were faithfully retained. Three of the new walls in the kitchen pod became a feature in their own right: a marble finger-tile bar display in the dining area, a Calacatta marble feature wall near the entry, and a fluted wall and rangehood in the show kitchen. "Those details were key, because they elevate the spaces and highlight the opulent vibe. We are drawn to elements with a wow factor," says the owner.

Standout furnishings include Mid-century classics such as curvaceous and richly upholstered Tacchini and B&B Italia sofas, together with Knoll dining chairs, all at home in these luxe, layered spaces. "It's hard to pick just one favourite feature, because I love so much of our new home," says the owner, "but I'd say my office if I had to choose. The wall of original glass blocks is a highlight and the new green marble staircase is spectacular… It all feels like the perfect blend of everything we wanted from the design." ▶

Greg Natale: *gregnatale.com.*

OFFICE Existing glass blocks. Joinery in Polytec Ravine Blossom White, Freestyle Joinery. Pendant light, Apparatus. Ico Parisi desk, eModerno. Minotti and Knoll chairs, both De De Ce. Vase, Greg Natale. **MEDIA ROOM** *Left* B&B Italia 'Camaleonda' sofa in Enia Curry Orange, Space. Tacchini coffee table, Stylecraft. 'Glory Days Gold' rug, Designer Rugs. *Opposite* Chandelier, Venini. Joinery, Freestyle Joinery. Artwork by Marisa Purcell. Minotti armchairs and gold side table, all De De Ce. Stone side table, small bowl, vase, butter-coloured bowl, amber vase and coaster set, all Greg Natale. Murano vase, eModerno.

> "I love the contrast between the glass blocks, the stairs and the Mid-century modern furniture."
>
> THE OWNER



THE PALETTE

Dulux Lexicon® Quarter
(walls and ceilings)

Dulux Classic Calm
(child's bedroom)

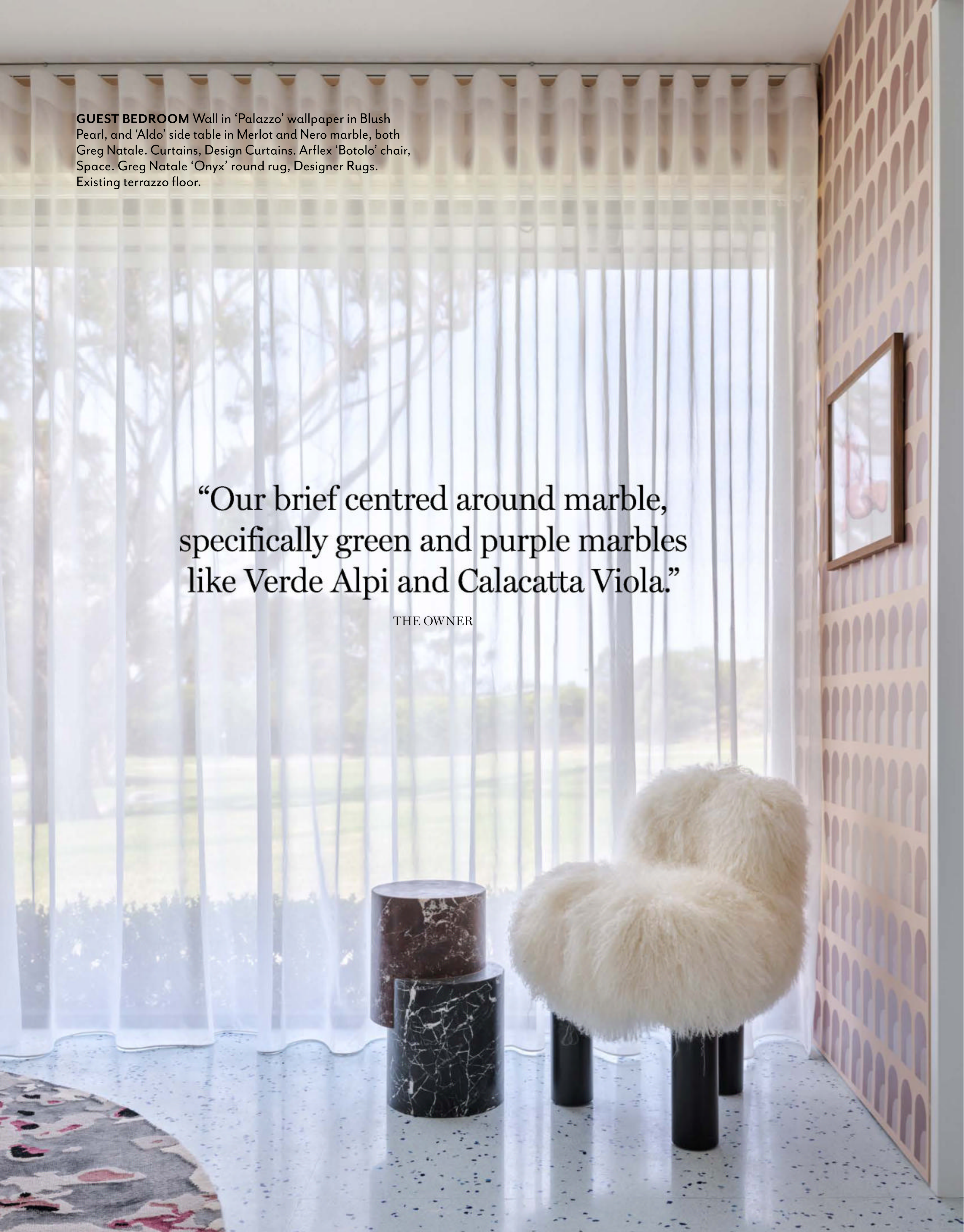
Greg Natale 'Palazzo' wallpaper in
Blush Pearl (guest bedroom)

BEDROOM Wallpaper and bed linen, all Greg Natale. Bed, Life Interiors. Bedside table, GlobeWest. Lamp, eModerno. GamFratesi desk, Space, and chair, Cult. Supertuft 'Escape Velour' carpet, Premier Carpets. **ENSUITE** *Opposite, top left, bottom right* Walls, vanity and bath in Alpine quartzite, CDK Stone. Victoria + Albert bath, Cass Brothers. Fizi sconces, Articolo Studios. Mixer, Astra Walker. **POWDER ROOM** *Top right* Wall in 'Porter' tiles in Pearl Jade, and vanity in Ruby quartzite, both Skheme. Pendant light, Christopher Boots. Tapware, Astra Walker. Vessels, Greg Natale. **CHILD'S BEDROOM** Walls painted Dulux Classic Calm. Bed, Domo. Lamp, eModerno. Statue by KAWS. Basketball, Tiffany & Co. Carpet, Supertuft.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

THIS IS THE LIFE

This home, with its blend of formality and informality, is geared towards work and leisure. “When I’m not working, we’re hosting guests in the formal lounge or at the dining table, and there are plenty of moments when I’m outside with the kids,” says the owner. “It feels like our own villa, and we love spending time here. It’s where we really relax and hang out.”

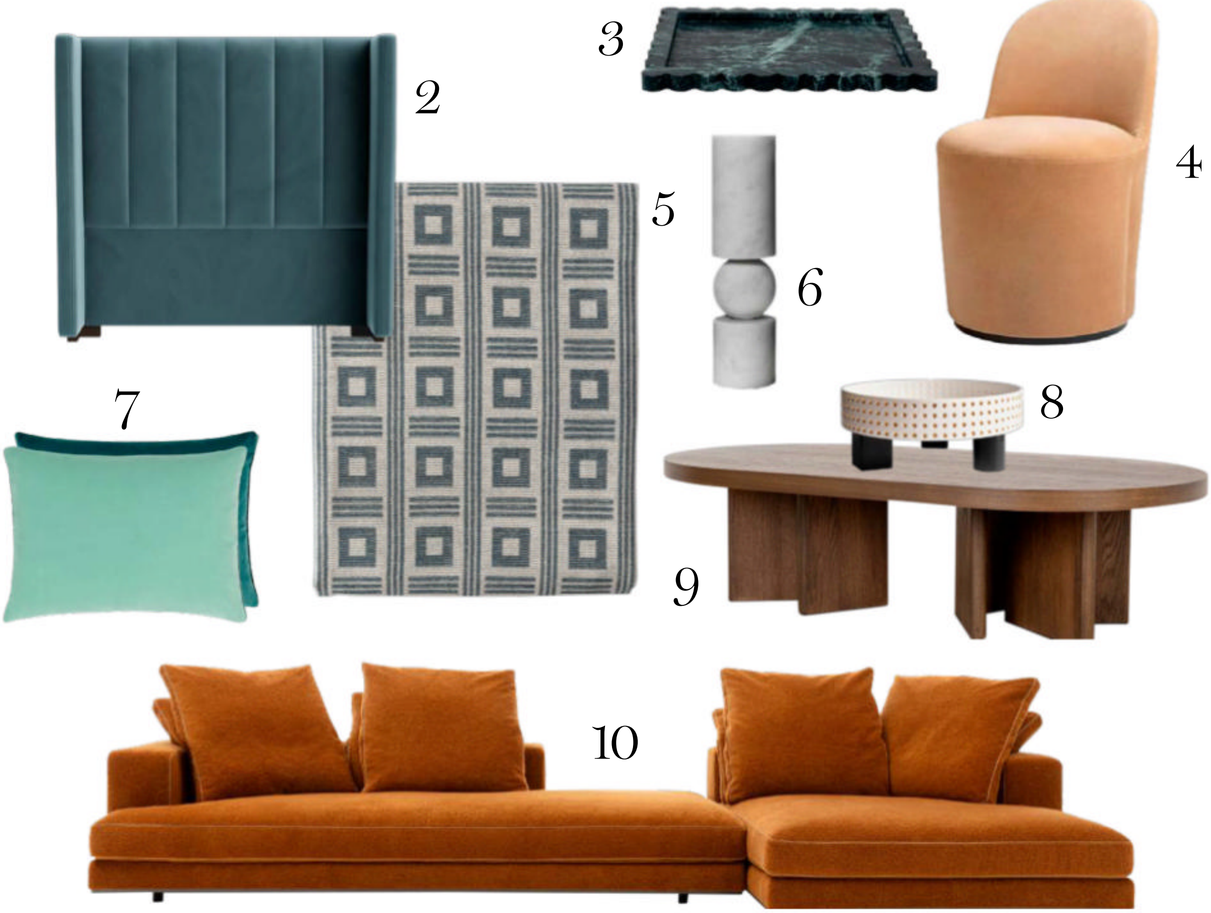


GUEST BEDROOM Wall in 'Palazzo' wallpaper in Blush Pearl, and 'Aldo' side table in Merlot and Nero marble, both Greg Natale. Curtains, Design Curtains. Arflex 'Botolo' chair, Space. Greg Natale 'Onyx' round rug, Designer Rugs. Existing terrazzo floor.

> "Our brief centred around marble, specifically green and purple marbles like Verde Alpi and Calacatta Viola."
>
> THE OWNER

THE SOURCE

For glamour-filled spaces, look to vibrant hues of teal and amber with elegant materials such as velvet and marble.



1 Marioni 'Pins' small turquoise **table lamp**, $1190*, Artemest. **2** 'Eldron' **bedhead** in Avignon Velvet Sky Blue, $1395, Coco Republic. **3** CoTheory large scalloped **marble tray** in Verdi Alpi, $319, Norsu Interiors. **4** Gubi 'Tail' **lounge chair** High Back, $1999, Cult. **5** Greg Natale 'Astoria' **throw** in Navy, $395, The Iconic. **6** Lee Broom 'Fulcrum' **candlestick** in White Marble, $700, Space. **7** Designers Guild 'Cassia' velvet **cushions** in Celadon and Mist, $407, Homme Upholstery Studio. **8** 'Billy' **bowl** in Gold, $620, Greg Natale. **9** 'Roshan' pill-shaped **coffee table** in Caramel Oak, $1015, Interior Secrets. **10** Maxalto 'Arbiter' **sofa**, POA, Space. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye. *Price according to exchange rates at the time of print.

Entertainer's DELIGHT

A generous waterside retreat offers loads of space to relax poolside or entertain friends and family.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Melissa Tomarchio*
PHOTOGRAPHY *Megan Sander*

KITCHEN/**DINING** 'Cooper' kitchen stools surround the island. A 'Patras' lamp illuminates the bench. A 'Creo' vase adorns the Calacatta Violetta top of the 'Khodier' table, with 'Cara' chairs in Freehand Tipped Camel. All Coco Republic.

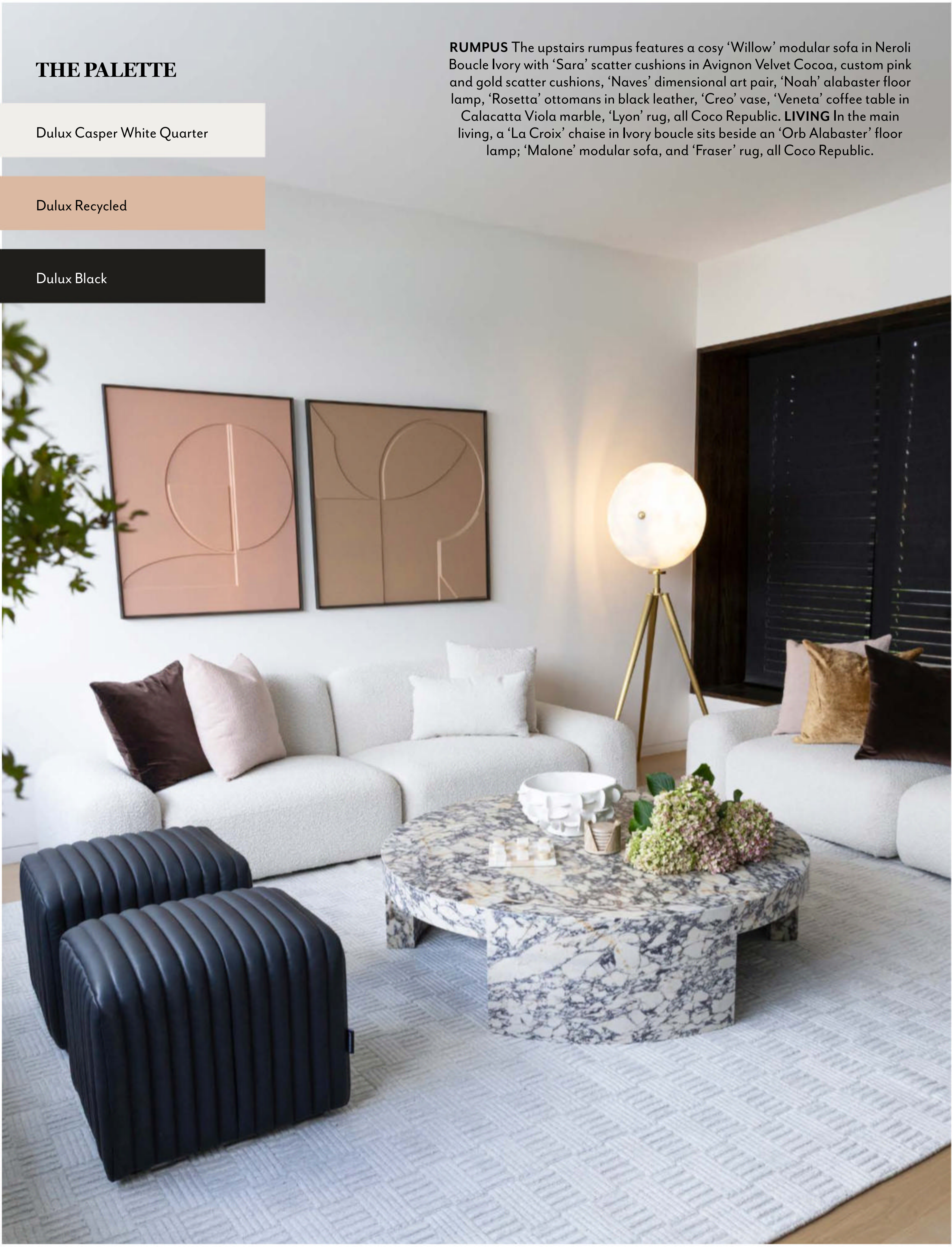
THE PALETTE

Dulux Casper White Quarter

Dulux Recycled

Dulux Black

RUMPUS The upstairs rumpus features a cosy 'Willow' modular sofa in Neroli Boucle Ivory with 'Sara' scatter cushions in Avignon Velvet Cocoa, custom pink and gold scatter cushions, 'Naves' dimensional art pair, 'Noah' alabaster floor lamp, 'Rosetta' ottomans in black leather, 'Creo' vase, 'Veneta' coffee table in Calacatta Viola marble, 'Lyon' rug, all Coco Republic. **LIVING** In the main living, a 'La Croix' chaise in Ivory boucle sits beside an 'Orb Alabaster' floor lamp; 'Malone' modular sofa, and 'Fraser' rug, all Coco Republic.



Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

Running through the design veins of this refurbished home in Sydney's coastal south was the convenient sentiment 'try before you buy'.

When the owners first saw the house, the commendable property styling helped them envisage its potential and possibilities. "When you put good furniture in a space such as this it gives the potential buyer a realistic idea of how it would be to live there. They have a better sense of spatial awareness," says interior designer Melissa Tomarchio of Coco Republic, who worked on the post-purchase art and furnishings.

Working with Melissa meant that a trip to the Coco Republic showroom in Alexandria made everything accessible to try out and touch all in one location. "We really got the gist of what they liked on the walk through. They could see our pieces in person and make selections based on touch and sensory experience. It cemented their belief in the design concept. They were experiencing my design presentation in real time," she recalls of the process. While the couple admired the home's styled furniture scheme and palette, they wanted to add their own touch and unique flair. "We designed them a more elevated version of what was there," says Melissa.

The brief was purely cosmetic, so all surfaces and finishes stayed. "The first step was to identify the materials in the space and how we could accentuate it," says Melissa of the furniture selection.

▶

The neutrality of the existing canvas comprised of simple warm timbers, concrete floors, smoky veined stone and brass pendants. Riffing off the base palette, Melissa introduced a suite of furnishings in light creamy hues, dramatic black and deep rust. “We incorporated clay and gold colours in the dining chairs, accessories and even the artwork, weaving tonal threads throughout,” she says. Scatter cushions in rich chocolatey hues and turmeric shades were layered into the scheme, with fabrics a mix of boucles and velvets.

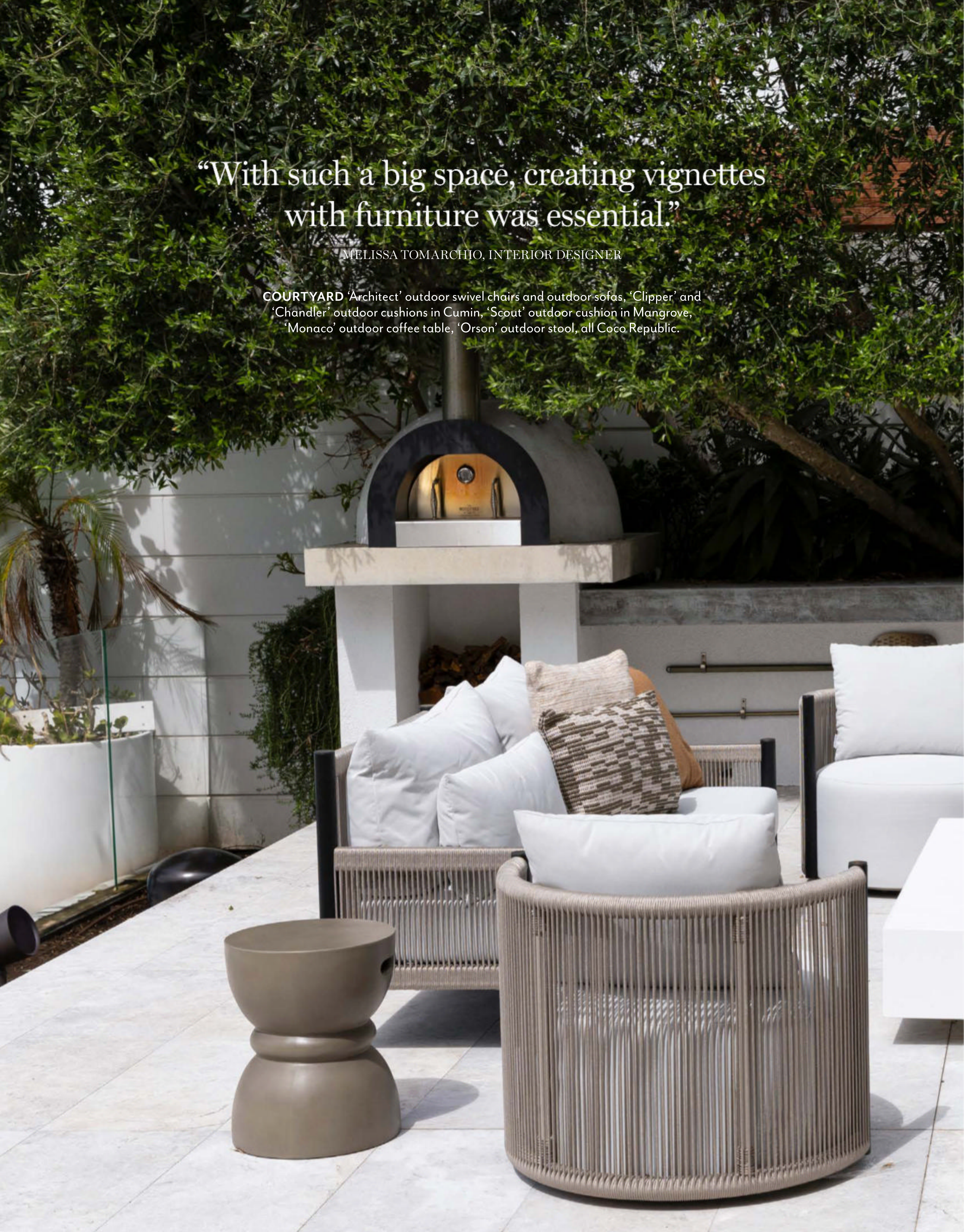
The family-friendly ground floor centres on the kitchen-dining-living hub where a generous in-built benchseat runs along the perimeter wall. The kitchen island has room for four while Coco Republic’s ‘Khodier’ dining table in oak and Calacatta Violetta marble can comfortably fit six. Spectacular views extend out from the ‘Malone’ modular sofa, across to the bobbing boats over local waterways. Running along the home’s axis is a hallway with a study and guest room on one side, a bathroom, laundry and powder room along the other. In addition to the kids’ bedrooms and main suite upstairs there’s a secondary family room outfitted with an ivory ‘Willow’ modular sofa with a soft, pillowy silhouette in ivory boucle.

Sliding doors open onto the tiered deck, where Melissa planned various seating arrangements, including a casual lounge area surrounding a pizza oven and barbecue, and a separate dining table. “With such a big space, creating vignettes with furniture and dedicated placements was essential,” says Melissa. “There’s a lot of furniture but [the home] needed to be filled, otherwise it would look very bare. The size of the house caters to this open space and it’s used frequently to entertain.” While there are covers for protection, the furniture’s durability means it can withstand the elements.

At the base of the garden knoll by the jetty, a small boathouse is outfitted with mirrors as a visual technique to make it seem bigger, and swivel chairs included for a laid-back conversational set-up. Although close to the water and likely a spot traipsed over by wet, summery feet, the boathouse was given the same luxurious scheme as the main house. “There’s often a tendency to think of a boathouse as something basic, but we wanted to continue the sophisticated thread from the main house,” she says. In terms of amenity, there’s a bathroom and kitchenette, so on warm days there isn’t really any need to leave. It’s the perfect place to stay put. ▶

Coco Republic: *cocorepublic.com.au.*

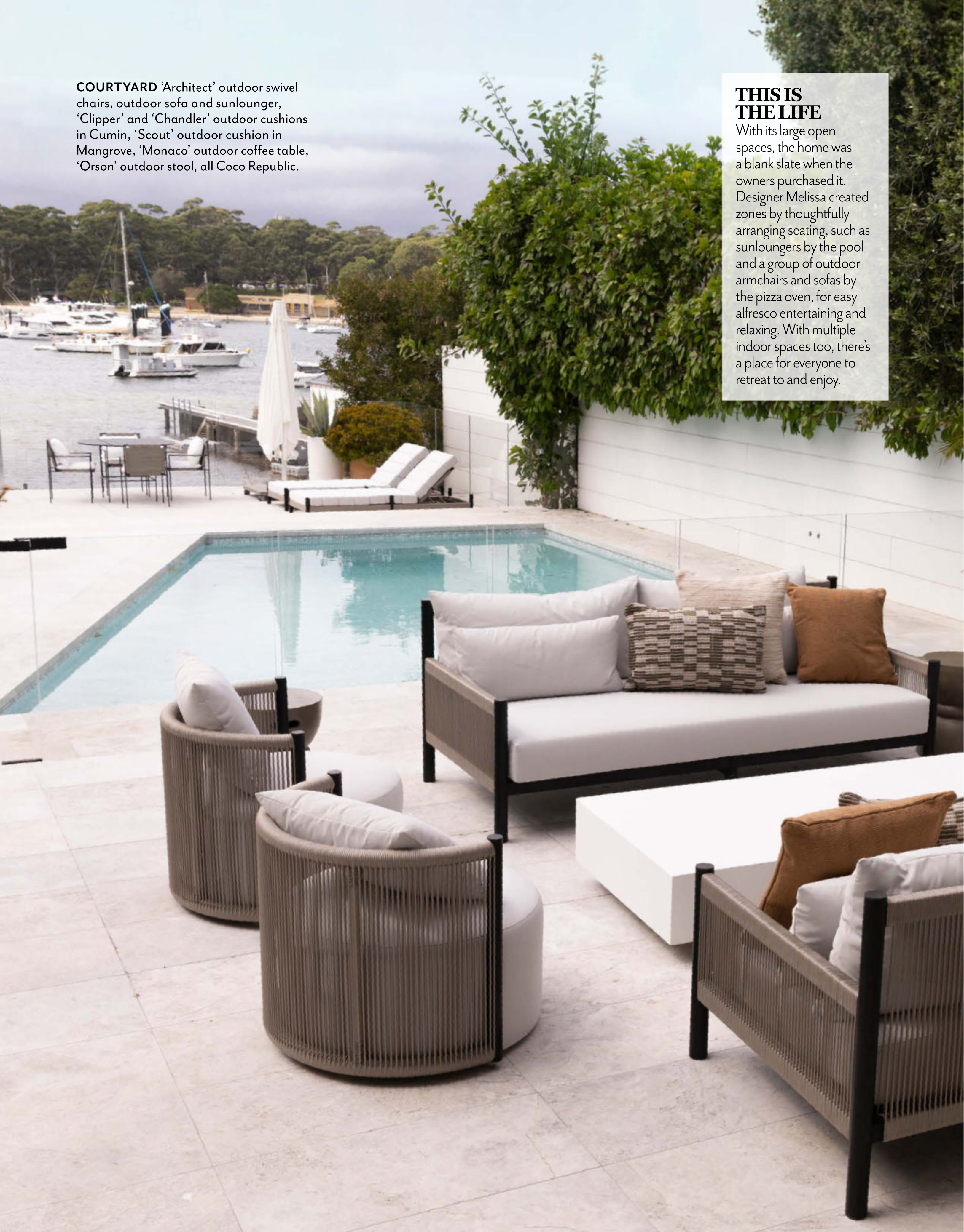
BOATHOUSE The boathouse has the same sophisticated existing interiors as the main house, which Melissa complemented with ‘Norfolk’ swivel chairs in Freehand Washed Leather Camel and ‘Como’ coffee and side tables, all Coco Republic.



“With such a big space, creating vignettes with furniture was essential.”

MELISSA TOMARCHIO, INTERIOR DESIGNER

COURTYARD ‘Architect’ outdoor swivel chairs and outdoor sofas, ‘Clipper’ and ‘Chandler’ outdoor cushions in Cumin, ‘Scout’ outdoor cushion in Mangrove, ‘Monaco’ outdoor coffee table, ‘Orson’ outdoor stool, all Coco Republic.



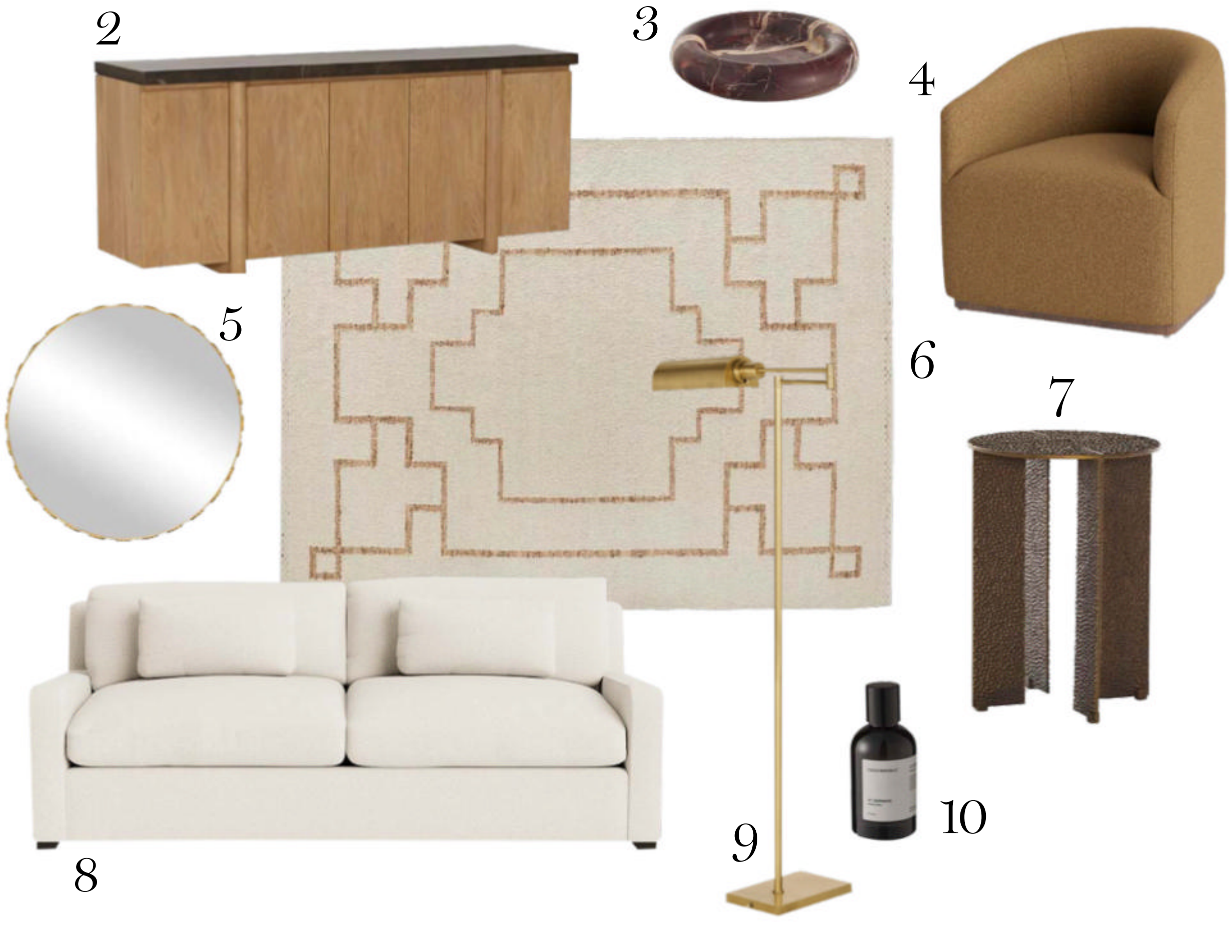
COURTYARD 'Architect' outdoor swivel chairs, outdoor sofa and sunlounger, 'Clipper' and 'Chandler' outdoor cushions in Cumin, 'Scout' outdoor cushion in Mangrove, 'Monaco' outdoor coffee table, 'Orson' outdoor stool, all Coco Republic.

THIS IS THE LIFE

With its large open spaces, the home was a blank slate when the owners purchased it. Designer Melissa created zones by thoughtfully arranging seating, such as sunloungers by the pool and a group of outdoor armchairs and sofas by the pizza oven, for easy alfresco entertaining and relaxing. With multiple indoor spaces too, there's a place for everyone to retreat to and enjoy.

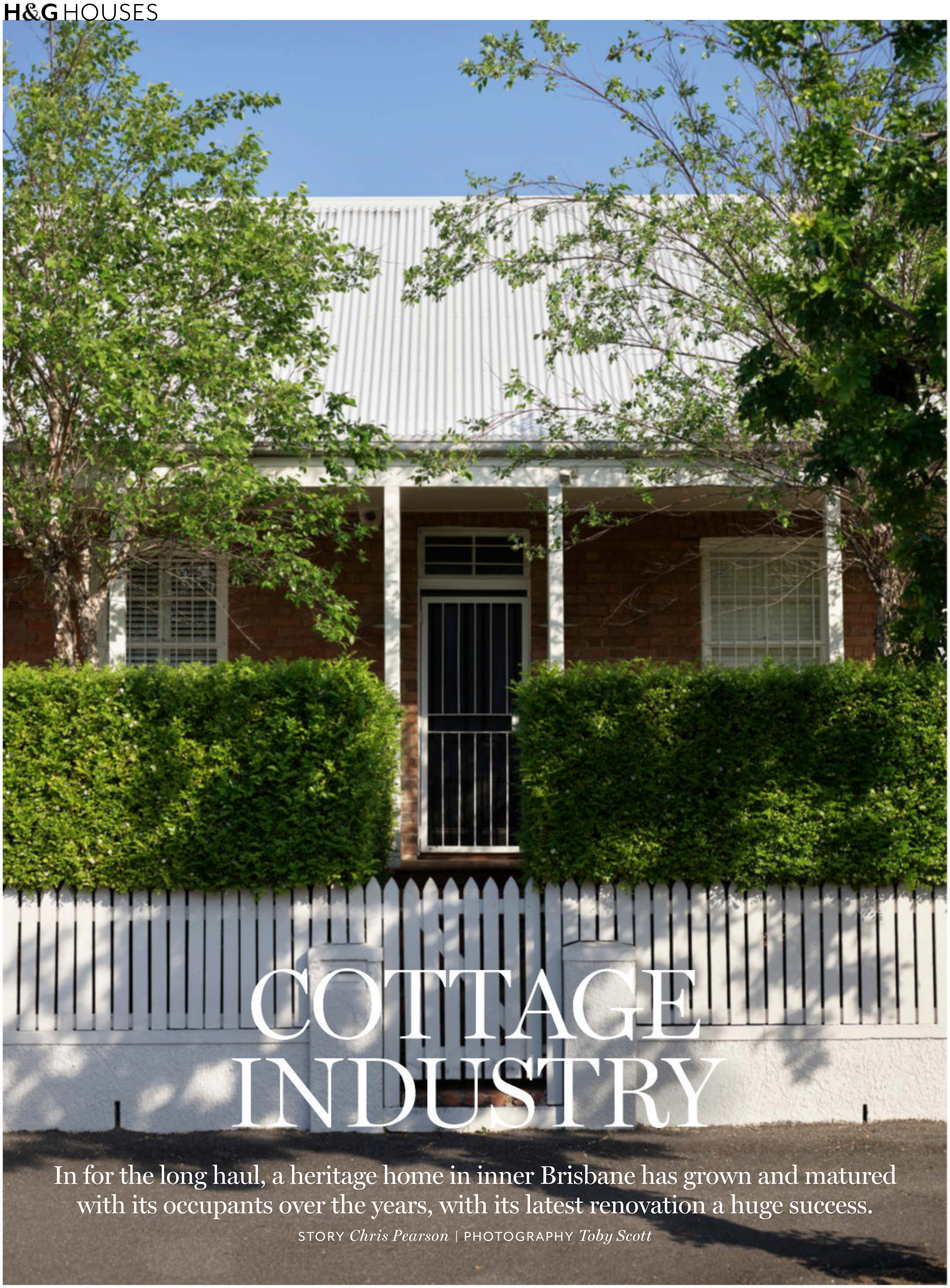
THE SOURCE

Create an elevated yet inviting ambience with warm timbers and brass and ivory tones.



1 'Patras' **table lamp**, $1995. **2** 'Carmel' **sideboard** in Blond Natural, $6495. **3** 'Kai' marble **dish** in Red Levanto, $145. **4** 'Lyam' **occasional chair** in Pacific Basket Weave Caramel, $1295. **5** 'Levin' outdoor/indoor wall **mirror**, $2295. **6** 'Fraser' **rug**, $2495. **7** 'Bowie' **side table** in Bronze, $1045. **8** 'Stratten' deep three-seater **sofa** in Venetian Performance Parchment, $6295. **9** 'Library' **lamp** in Aged Gold, $995. **10** St Germain **room spray**, $75/100ml. All Coco Republic, cocorepublic.com.au. **H&G**

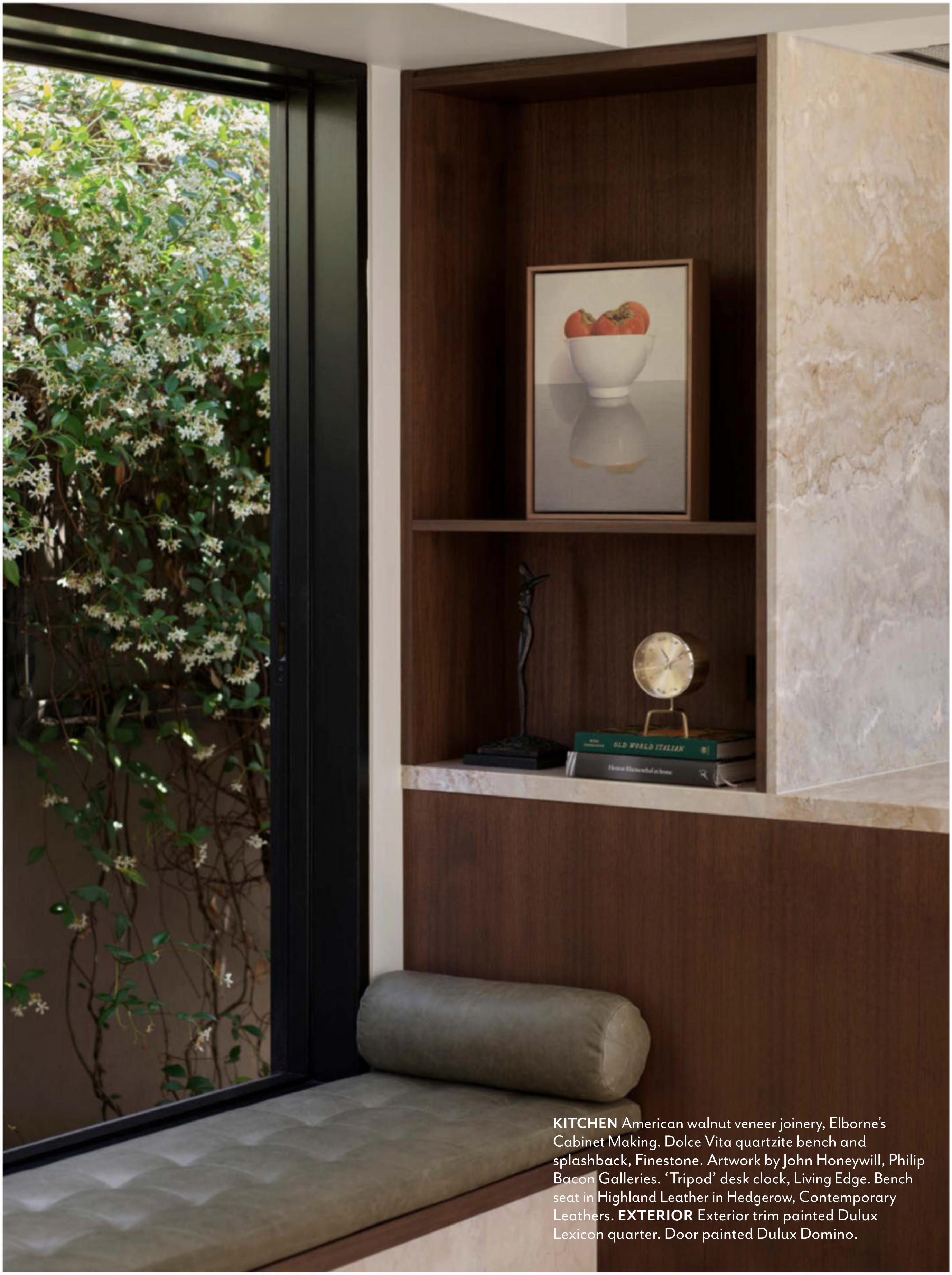
Produced by Marissa Foye.



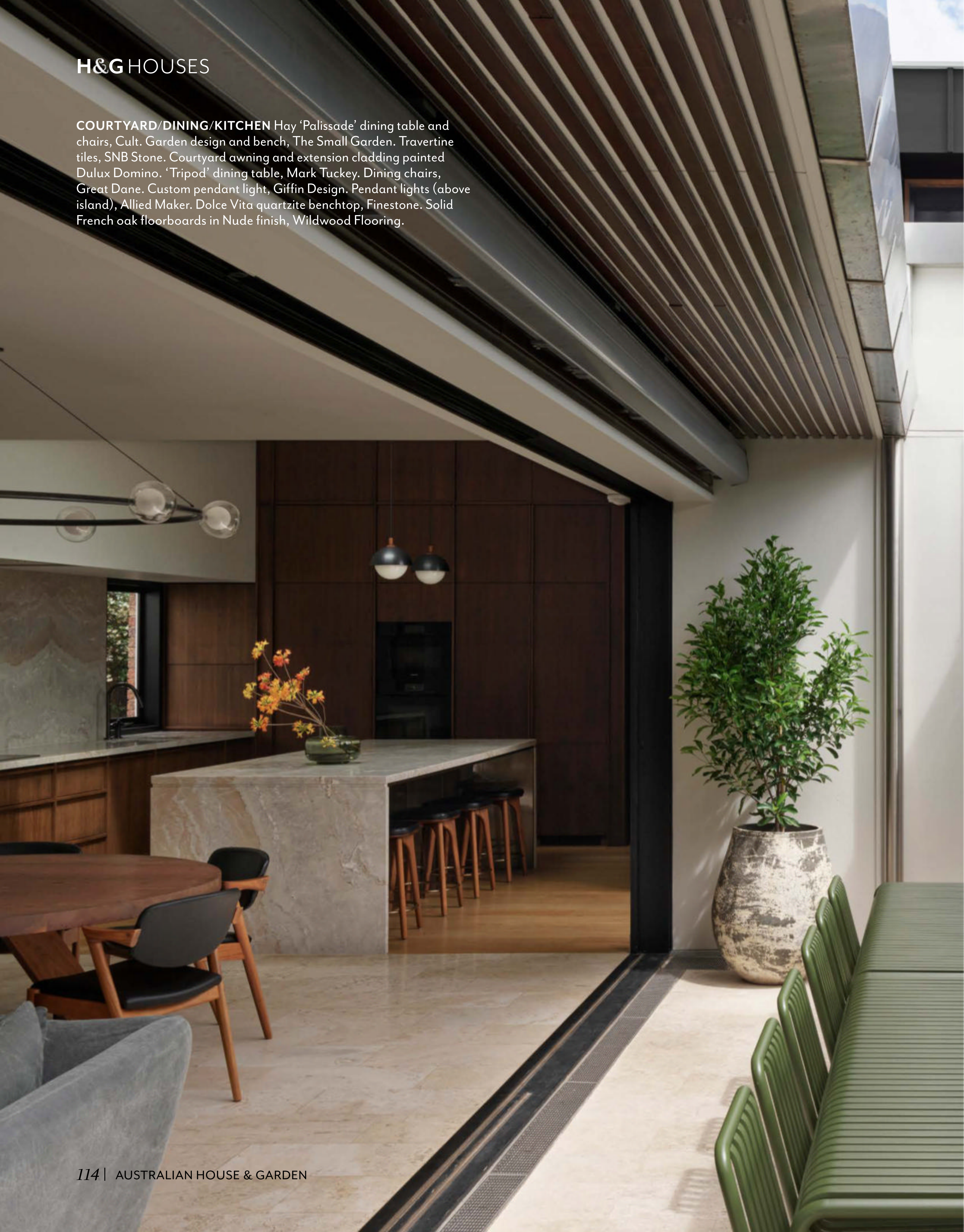
COTTAGE INDUSTRY

In for the long haul, a heritage home in inner Brisbane has grown and matured with its occupants over the years, with its latest renovation a huge success.

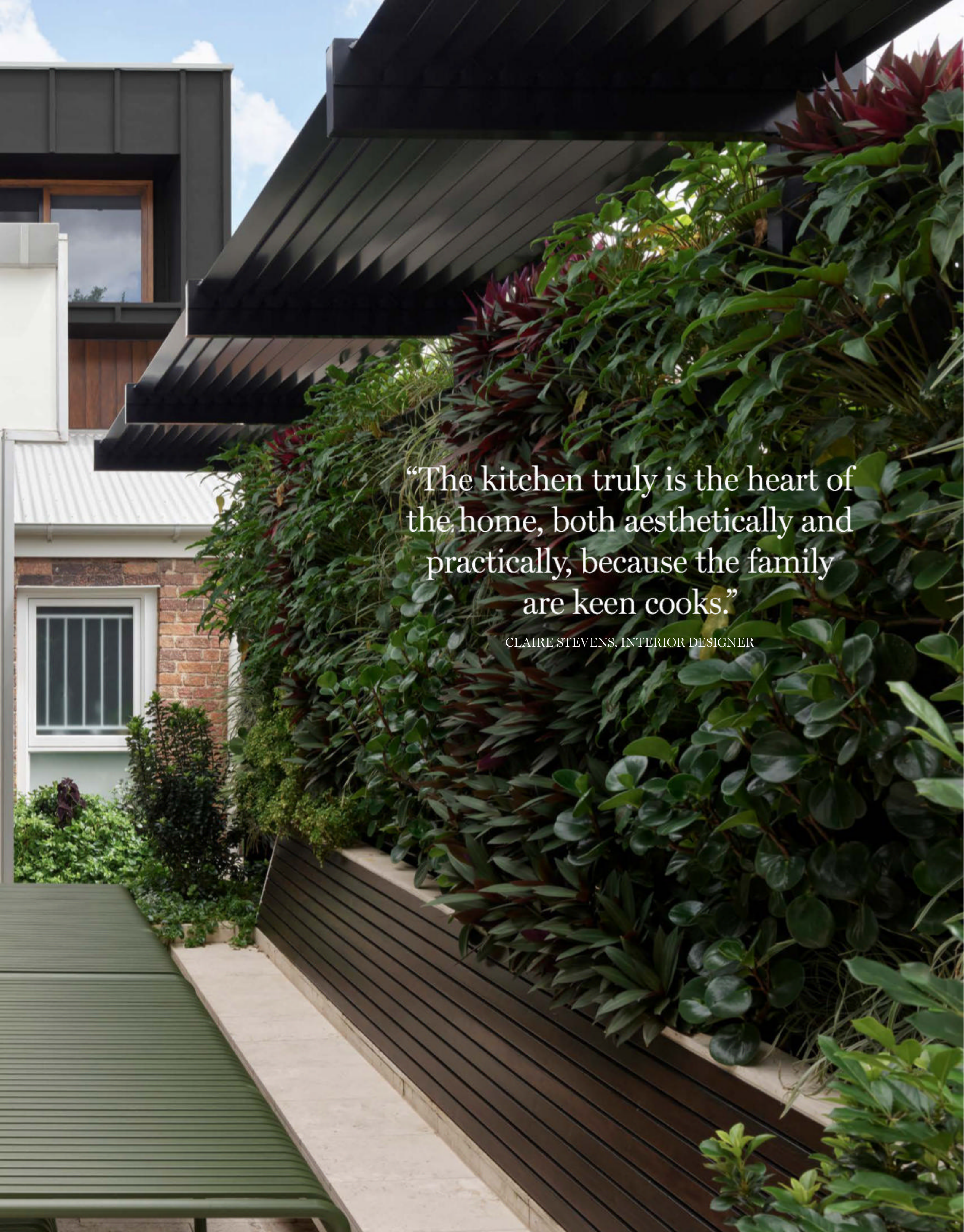
STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Toby Scott*



KITCHEN American walnut veneer joinery, Elborne's Cabinet Making. Dolce Vita quartzite bench and splashback, Finestone. Artwork by John Honeywill, Philip Bacon Galleries. 'Tripod' desk clock, Living Edge. Bench seat in Highland Leather in Hedgerow, Contemporary Leathers. **EXTERIOR** Exterior trim painted Dulux Lexicon quarter. Door painted Dulux Domino.



COURTYARD/DINING/KITCHEN Hay 'Palissade' dining table and chairs, Cult. Garden design and bench, The Small Garden. Travertine tiles, SNB Stone. Courtyard awning and extension cladding painted Dulux Domino. 'Tripod' dining table, Mark Tuckey. Dining chairs, Great Dane. Custom pendant light, Giffin Design. Pendant lights (above island), Allied Maker. Dolce Vita quartzite benchtop, Finestone. Solid French oak floorboards in Nude finish, Wildwood Flooring.



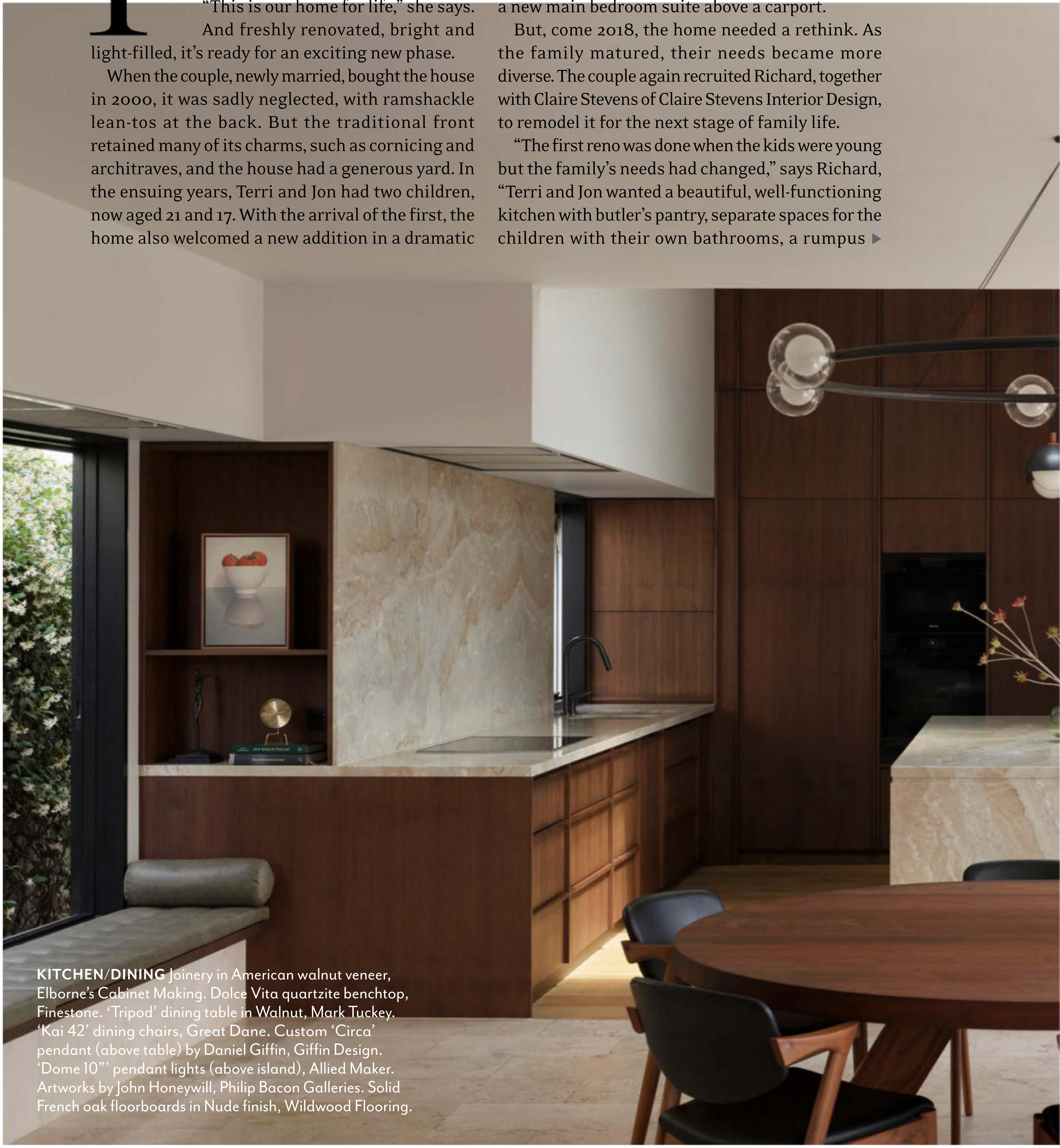
> “The kitchen truly is the heart of the home, both aesthetically and practically, because the family are keen cooks.”
>
> CLAIRE STEVENS, INTERIOR DESIGNER

For Terri and Jon, this brick cottage in inner Brisbane is their forever home, a much-loved member of the family that's grown with them over 25 years. "This is our home for life," she says. And freshly renovated, bright and light-filled, it's ready for an exciting new phase.

When the couple, newly married, bought the house in 2000, it was sadly neglected, with ramshackle lean-tos at the back. But the traditional front retained many of its charms, such as cornicing and architraves, and the house had a generous yard. In the ensuing years, Terri and Jon had two children, now aged 21 and 17. With the arrival of the first, the home also welcomed a new addition in a dramatic renovation. Architect Richard Coulson of Cox ventured into the roof to create a guest bedroom, taking 2.5 bedrooms to four, and replaced the back with a light-filled open plan. Beyond that, he placed a new main bedroom suite above a carport.

But, come 2018, the home needed a rethink. As the family matured, their needs became more diverse. The couple again recruited Richard, together with Claire Stevens of Claire Stevens Interior Design, to remodel it for the next stage of family life.

"The first reno was done when the kids were young but the family's needs had changed," says Richard, "Terri and Jon wanted a beautiful, well-functioning kitchen with butler's pantry, separate spaces for the children with their own bathrooms, a rumpus ▶



KITCHEN/DINING Joinery in American walnut veneer, Elborne's Cabinet Making. Dolce Vita quartzite benchtop, Finestone. 'Tripod' dining table in Walnut, Mark Tuckey. 'Kai 42' dining chairs, Great Dane. Custom 'Circa' pendant (above table) by Daniel Giffin, Giffin Design. 'Dome 10"' pendant lights (above island), Allied Maker. Artworks by John Honeywill, Philip Bacon Galleries. Solid French oak floorboards in Nude finish, Wildwood Flooring.

THIS IS THE LIFE

For work and play, the kitchen truly is the heart of the home. “If working from home, I will sit at the kitchen bench or in the courtyard,” says Terri. “My son does his uni work at the kitchen table and my daughter does, too. In fact, all four of us might be working there at once.” And then the space can transform into entertaining central. If anyone wants me-time, they can each enjoy their own retreats.

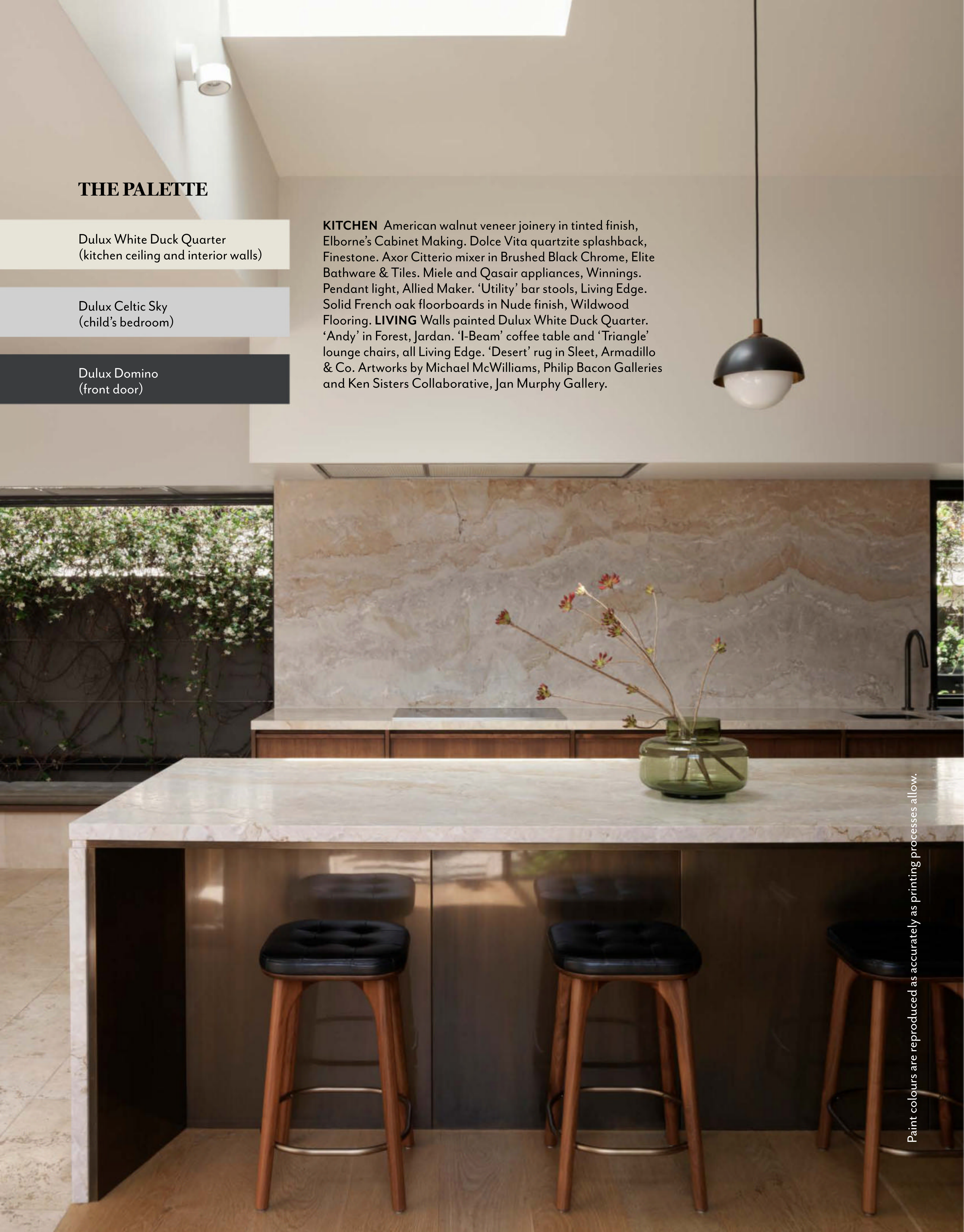
THE PALETTE

Dulux White Duck Quarter
(kitchen ceiling and interior walls)

Dulux Celtic Sky
(child's bedroom)

Dulux Domino
(front door)

KITCHEN American walnut veneer joinery in tinted finish, Elborne's Cabinet Making. Dolce Vita quartzite splashback, Finestone. Axor Citterio mixer in Brushed Black Chrome, Elite Bathware & Tiles. Miele and Qasair appliances, Winnings. Pendant light, Allied Maker. 'Utility' bar stools, Living Edge. Solid French oak floorboards in Nude finish, Wildwood Flooring. **LIVING** Walls painted Dulux White Duck Quarter. 'Andy' in Forest, Jardan. 'I-Beam' coffee table and 'Triangle' lounge chairs, all Living Edge. 'Desert' rug in Sleet, Armadillo & Co. Artworks by Michael McWilliams, Philip Bacon Galleries and Ken Sisters Collaborative, Jan Murphy Gallery.



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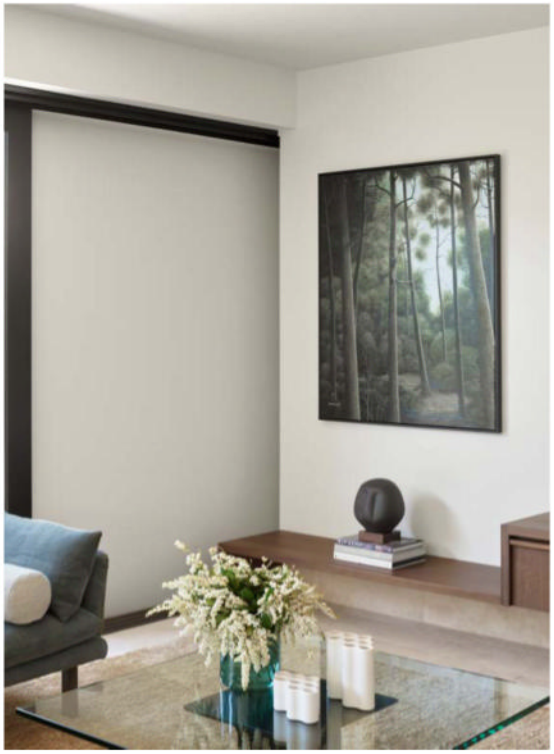
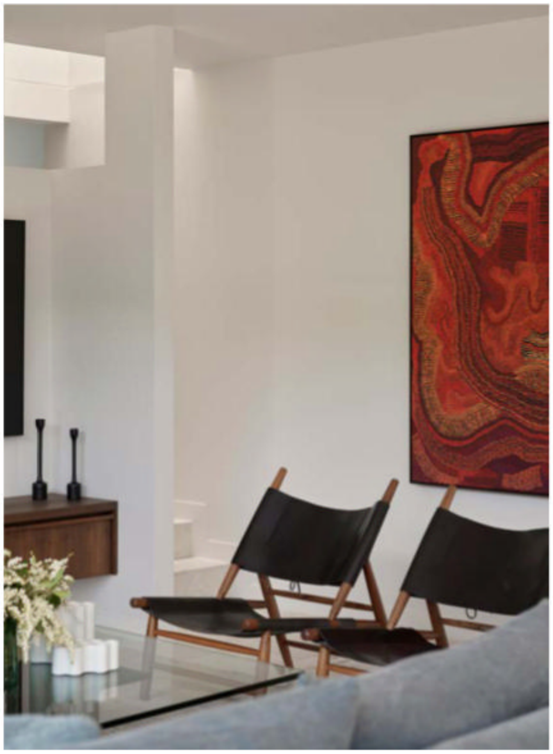




where they could spend time with friends, and a parents' retreat with a large walk-in and ensuite." And the younger members of the family were evolving into passionate foodies like their parents: "We wanted space where two or three cooks could work together at once," adds Terri, "and breakaway spaces for us all. As I love fashion, a walk-in robe was a must."

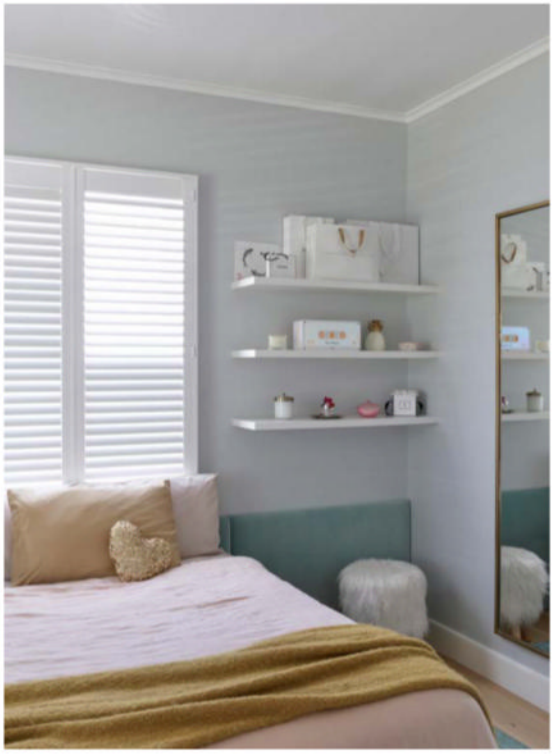
The elongated lot with side-lane access offered the solution. Beyond a refurbished light-soaked open plan, a gallery-type laundry space runs along the rear of the carport and connects to a new children's lounge. On top of this is an expanded main bedroom suite, complete with sitting area and walk-in. Both look out onto a rear garden, albeit smaller than before. In the original front section, a guest bedroom in the loft has been enlarged to become a bedroom suite for the son, while downstairs is shared by the daughter's bedroom, a guest bedroom and the main bathroom.

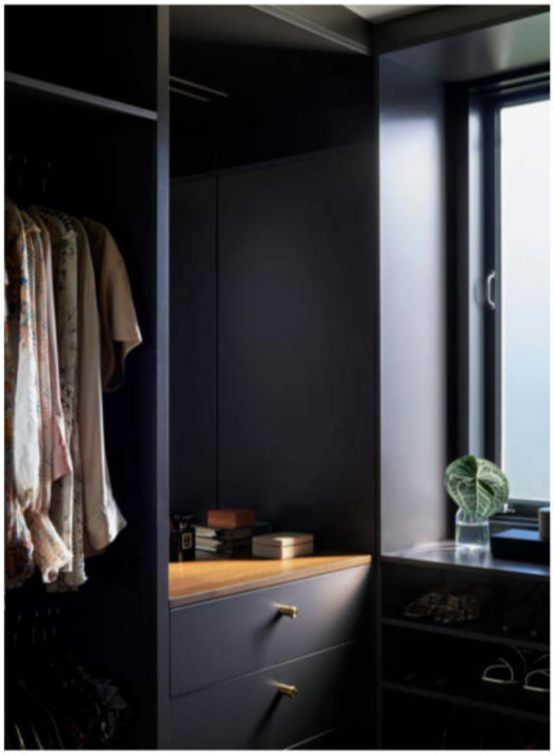
Terri's brief to Claire? "I wanted something modern and with warmth and richness, but also purposeful – I did not want a showroom," she says. "I love dark walnut, because it gives warmth and texture." She also wanted to retain the handsome travertine floor tiles from the earlier reno. And a long leather-clad window seat would become much needed seating for the keen entertainers, doubling as a daybed in quieter times.

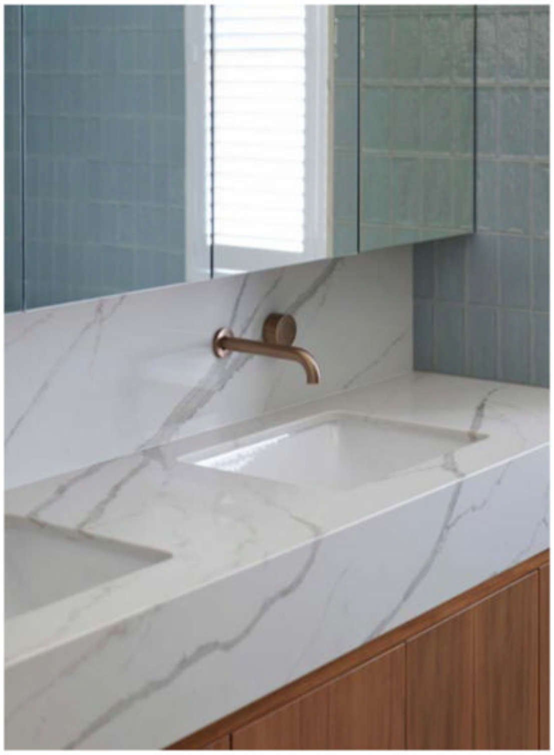
"As clichéd as it may sound, the kitchen truly is the heart of the home, both aesthetically and practically, because the family are keen cooks," says Claire. "Walnut joinery, driven by Terri's desire for a dark, moody and intimate space, is offset by warm-white walls to tone in with the travertine."

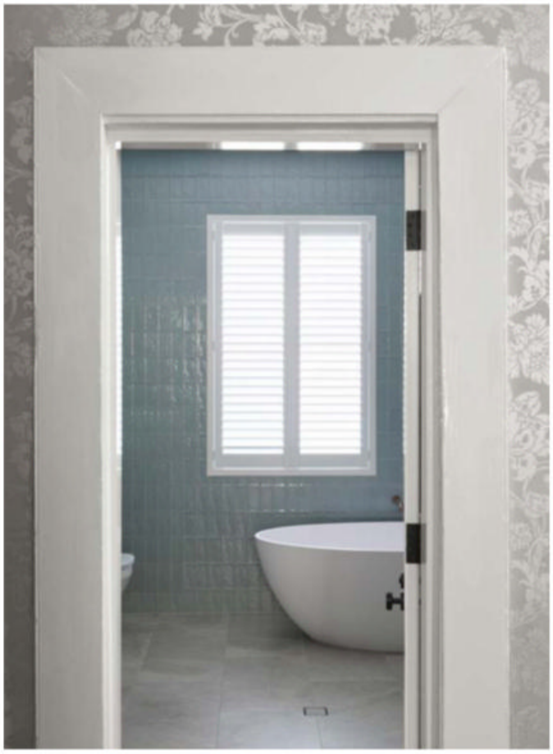
Meanwhile, a lush plant wall by The Small Garden, lending a nurturing sense of enclosure to the courtyard, adds a rich green dimension. Coloured tiles in the bathrooms also deliver texture and colour en masse.

The sofa, dining and coffee tables all accentuate the hues of the walnut joinery and the travertine floors, with aged brass providing a warm muted sheen. Adding to the sense of home, the walls are peppered with the couple's art collection, including Indigenous pieces gracing a living wall. ▶



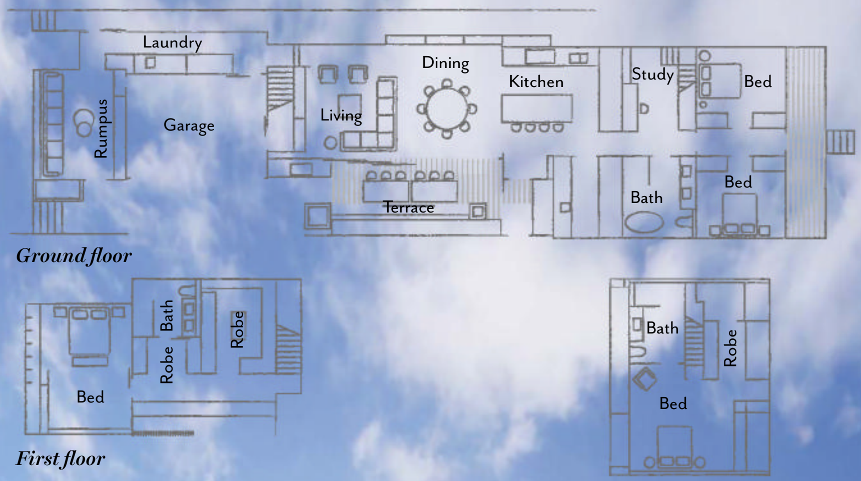


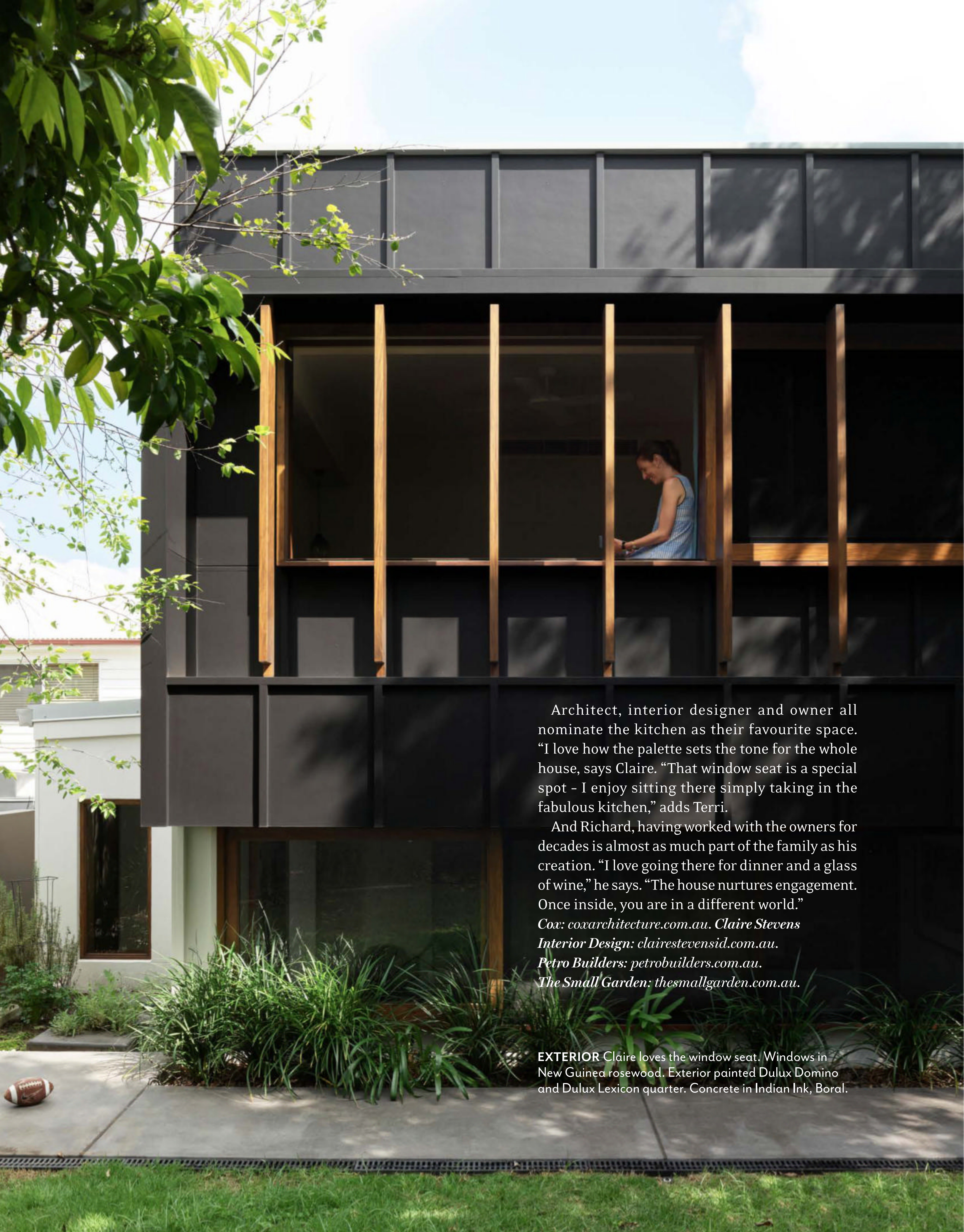




CHILD'S BEDROOM Custom bedhead in Oxford velvet in Sky, Elliott Clarke. Antique brass mirror, West Elm. Rug, Boyd Blue. Bed linen, Bedouin Societe. Throw, Jardan. Ottoman, Pottery Barn. **WALK-IN ROBE** Joinery in Polytec in Graphite and benchtop in American walnut veneer. Handles, Ferm Living. **BATHROOM** Brodware 'Halo' mixer in Statue Bronze PVD, and Fondovalle floor tiles, all Elite Bathware & Tiles. 'Piemonte' wall tiles, Classic Ceramics. Vanity top in Imperial Grande, Smartstone. Joinery in American walnut veneer, Elborne's Cabinet Making. Basins, Elite Bathware & Tiles. 'Gigi' stone bath, Stonebaths. **EXTERIOR** Interior designer Claire Stevens. Extension painted Dulux Domino.

THE LAYOUT


Laundry
Rumpus
Garage
Living
Dining
Kitchen
Study
Bed
Terrace
Bath
Bed
Ground floor
Bed
Bath
Robe
Robe
First floor
Bath
Robe
Bed



Architect, interior designer and owner all nominate the kitchen as their favourite space. "I love how the palette sets the tone for the whole house, says Claire. "That window seat is a special spot - I enjoy sitting there simply taking in the fabulous kitchen," adds Terri.

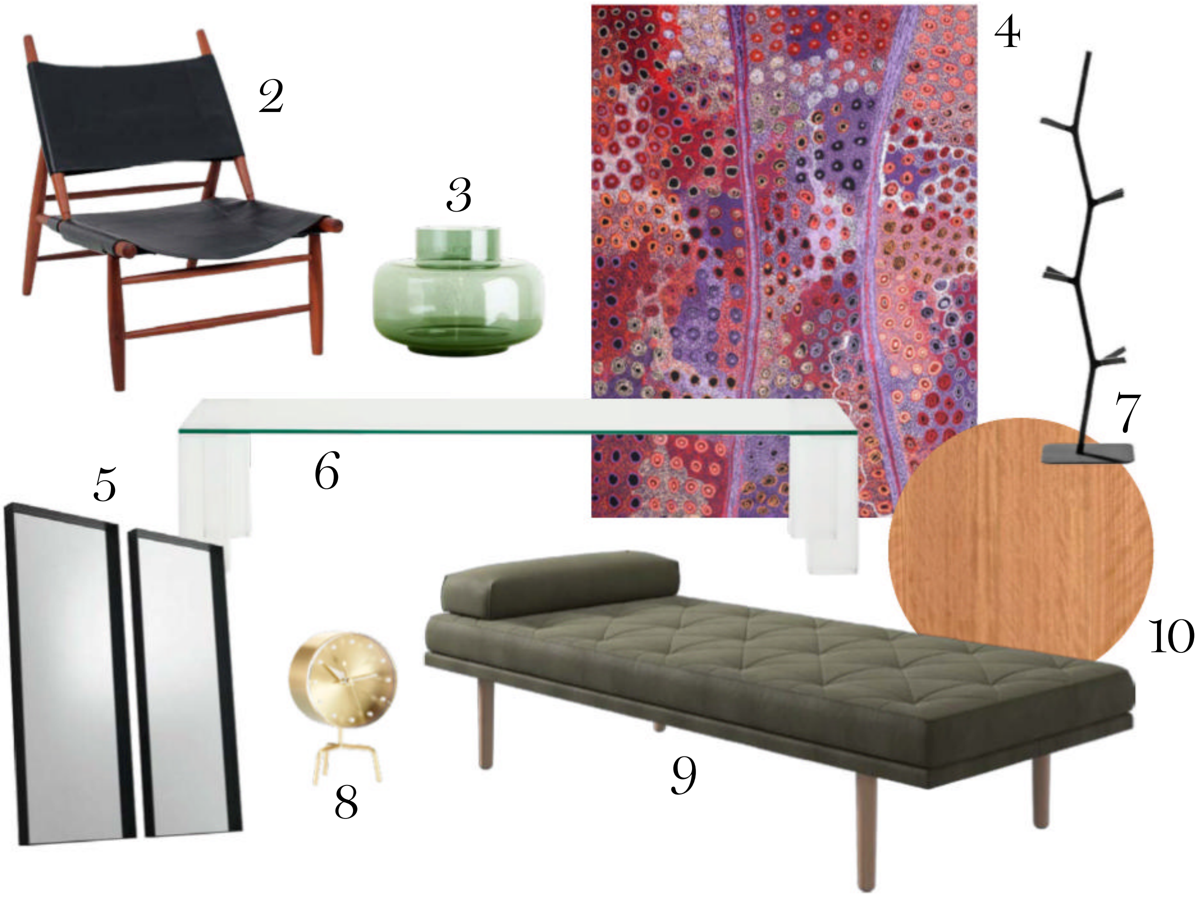
And Richard, having worked with the owners for decades is almost as much part of the family as his creation. "I love going there for dinner and a glass of wine," he says. "The house nurtures engagement. Once inside, you are in a different world."

Cox: *coxarchitecture.com.au.* ***Claire Stevens Interior Design:*** *clairestevensid.com.au.* ***Petro Builders:*** *petrobuilders.com.au.* ***The Small Garden:*** *thesmallgarden.com.au.*

EXTERIOR Claire loves the window seat. Windows in New Guinea rosewood. Exterior painted Dulux Domino and Dulux Lexicon quarter. Concrete in Indian Ink, Boral.

THE SOURCE

Create a lived-in yet designer-worthy space with modern pieces in the right balance of moody and colourful tones.



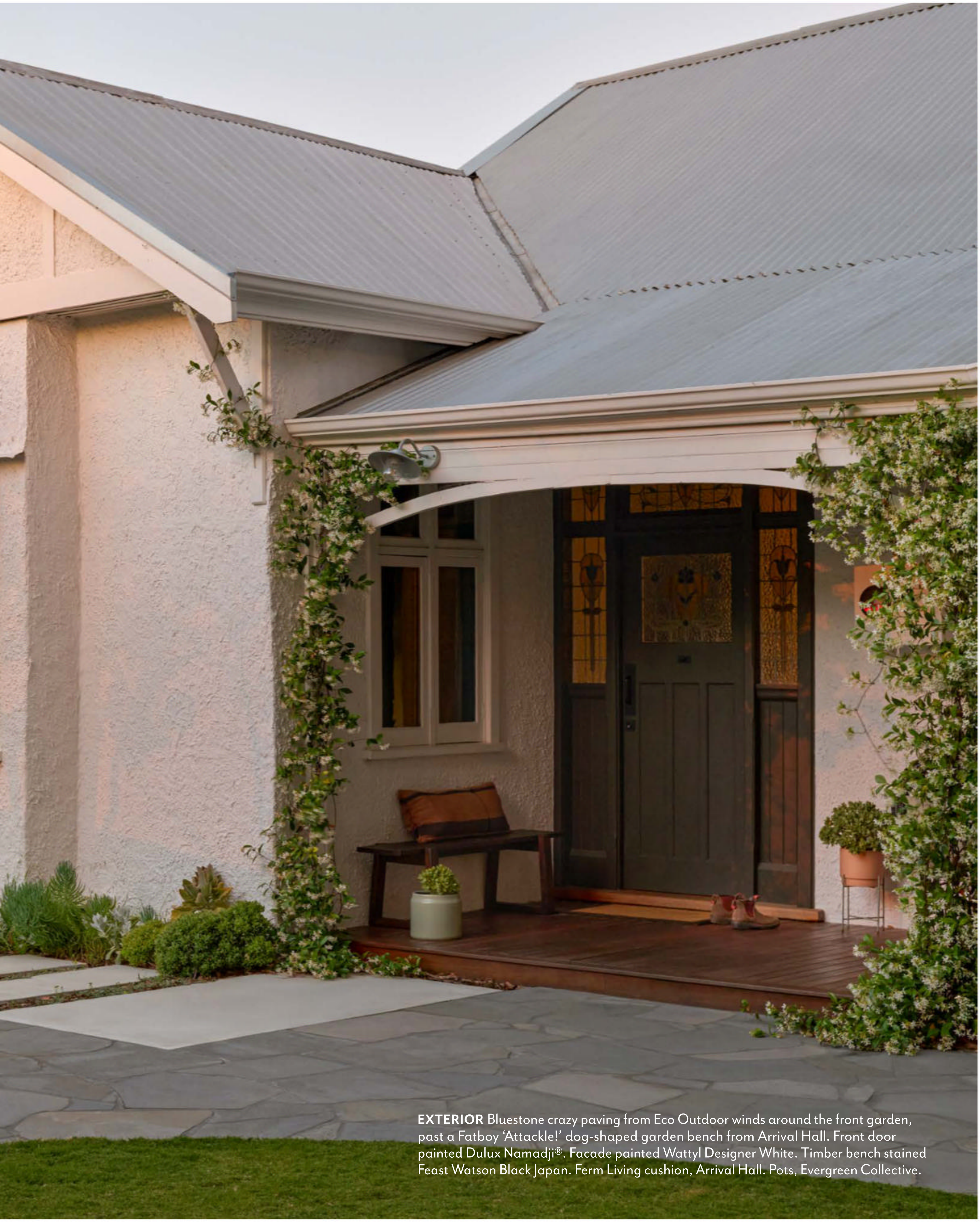
1 'July' **pendant light**, from $715, Cult. **2** 'Triangle' **chair**, $4980, Living Edge. **3** Marimekko 'Urna' **vase** in Olive Green, $409, Living by Design. **4** *Kapi Tjukula Tjuta (Many Rock Holes)* **artwork** by Mitakiki Women's Collaborative, $9900, Olsen Gallery. **5** 'Sara' **mirror** in Mat Champagne, $2580, Poliform. **6** 'Mondo' **coffee table** in Ice, $990, Clu Living. **7** 'Nara' **coat stand**, $1940, Cult. **8** 'Tripod' **clock** in Brass, $788, Finnish Design Shop. **9** 'Fusion' **daybed** in Light Oak and Olive Green York leather, $8669, BoConcept. **10** Plantino 'Native Memento' **flooring** in Blackbutt, POA, Choices Flooring. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

Escape to THE CITY

A couple from the country set up the ultimate city sanctuary in Perth as a family base and as respite from busy farm life.

STORY *Carli Philips* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Jack Lovel*



EXTERIOR Bluestone crazy paving from Eco Outdoor winds around the front garden, past a Fatboy 'Attackle!' dog-shaped garden bench from Arrival Hall. Front door painted Dulux Namadji®. Facade painted Wattyl Designer White. Timber bench stained Feast Watson Black Japan. Ferm Living cushion, Arrival Hall. Pots, Evergreen Collective.

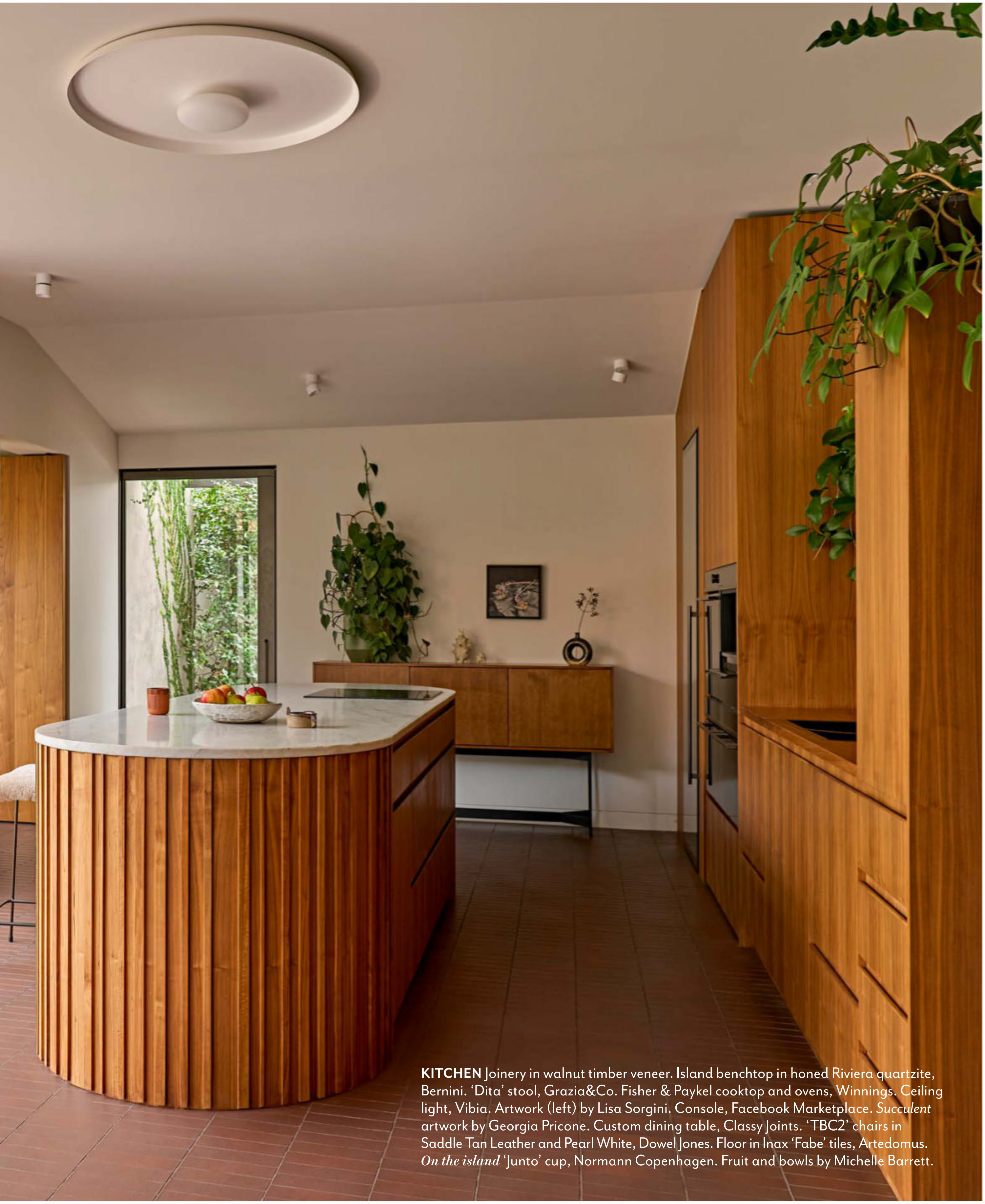
During the week, Michelle Barrett and her husband Kieran sweat it out at their family farm near Esperance, WA, about 100km from so much as a supermarket. “We wanted a place to retreat to in the city,” says Michelle, the owner of this “Perth pad” and also the founder of interior design studio Frank & Boyd. “We wanted a place for when we are in Perth on business or visiting the kids,” says Michelle of the couple’s adult daughters Emma and Eadie, who live in the house full-time.

A deceased estate on a double block, the house had excellent bones but wasn’t exactly the lock-and-leave property Keith had in mind, especially given that the large garden would require a lot of maintenance. However, Michelle’s commitment to replanting with hardier species and the house’s proximity to a train line (meaning an easy commute to the football) eventually won him over.

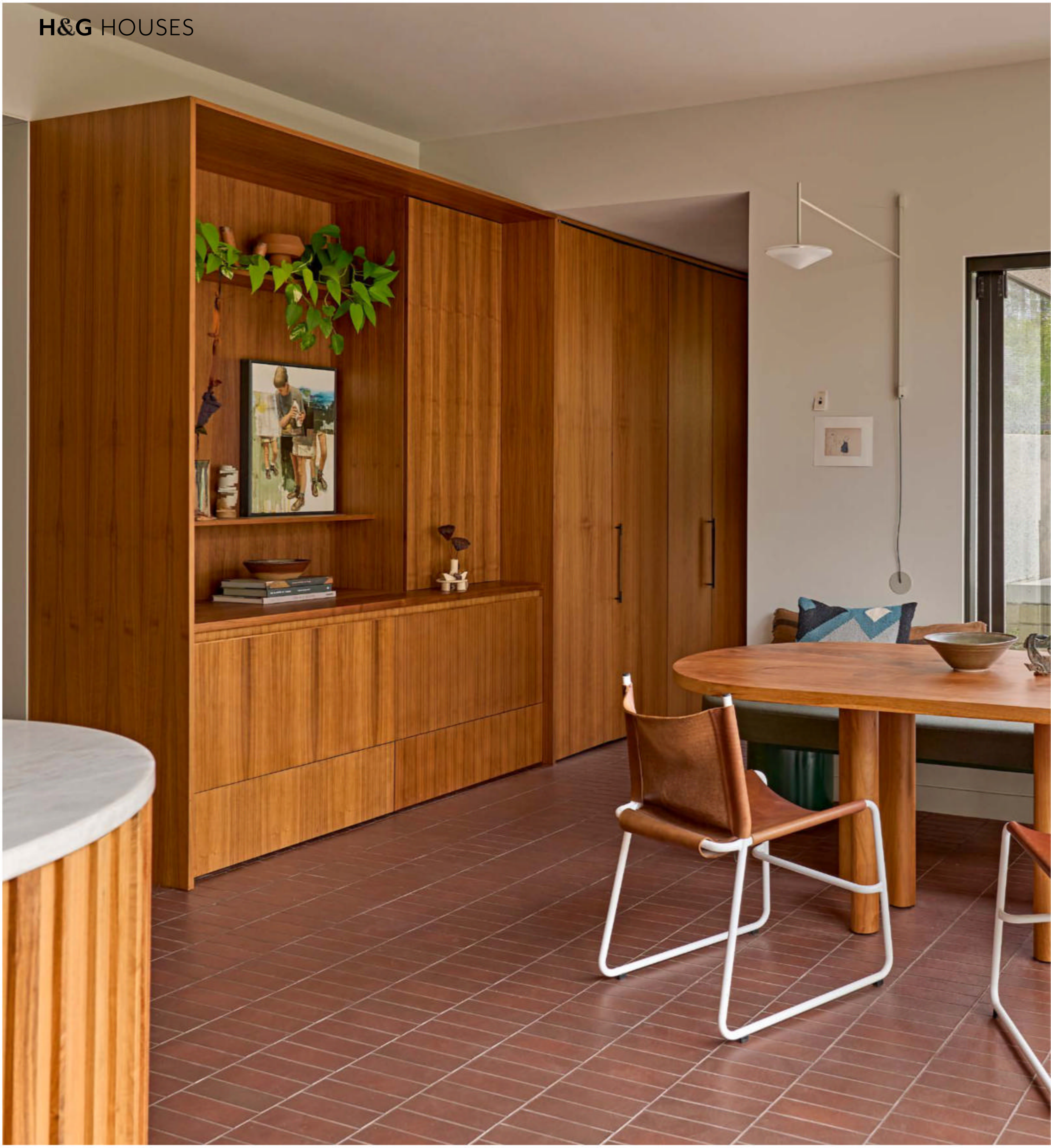
The timing coincided with the Covid pandemic and, at the time, Michelle was studying a Bachelor of Design nearby away. However, they took all the Covid delays in their stride. “I bought a new mattress and gave it a ‘student renovation’ with some Marketplace finds. But truthfully, we didn’t mind,” she says. “It bought us some extra time so we could get a sense of how we would use the property. It also allowed us to save up some money to pay for it!”

Two years later and they were ready to renovate. They engaged Kate Fitzgerald, founder of architectural practice Whispering Smith, whose “low-fuss, pragmatic and down-to-earth designs” they admired. “Kate is originally a farm girl and understood what we were looking for in terms of a refuge in the city… [and] how important it was to honour the home’s heritage,” says Michelle. “Kieran is in the paddock so often and works really hard, so it was important to create a place where we could relax.”

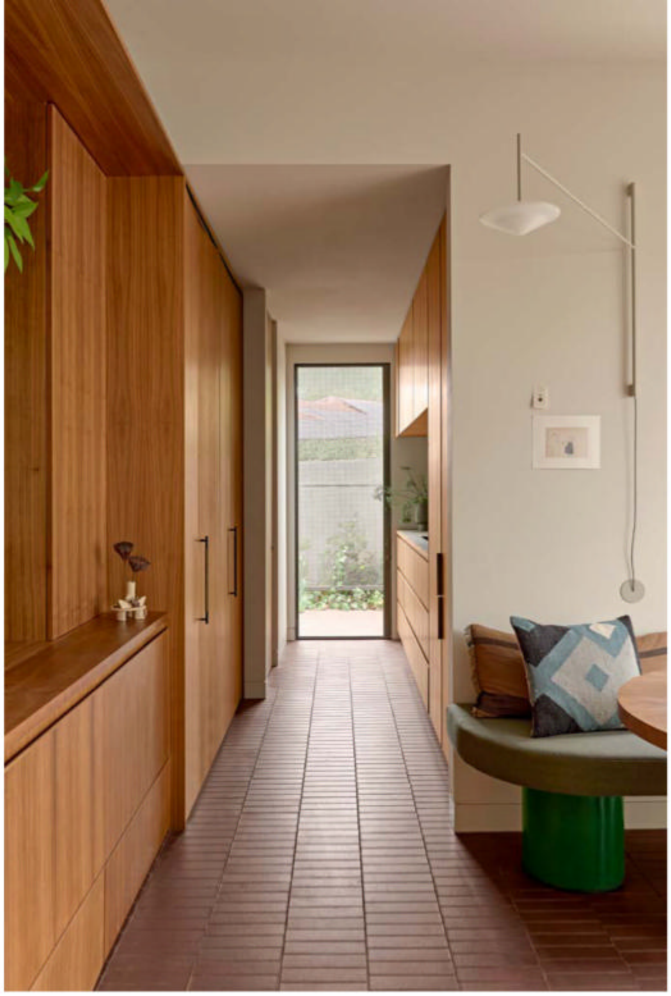
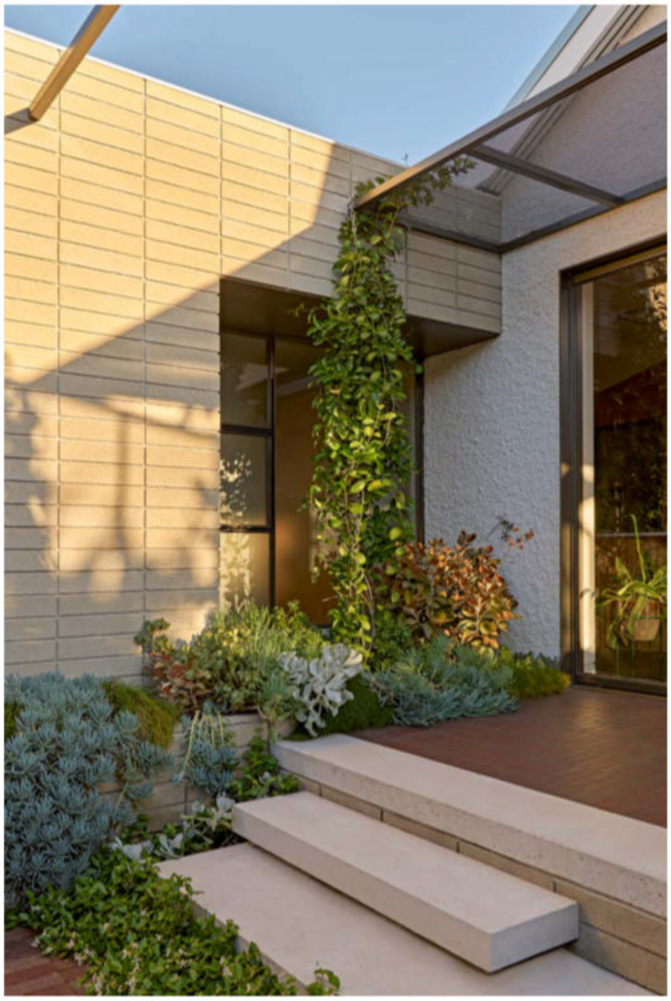
The couple were only the third owners in 100 years and had to contend with a 1960s renovation with a significant lack of storage. Despite this, the high ceilings and ornate features had a beautiful feel. Kate’s fresh eyes and respect for the home’s bones helped map out the ground floor to avoid a second storey, which neither of them wanted. ▶

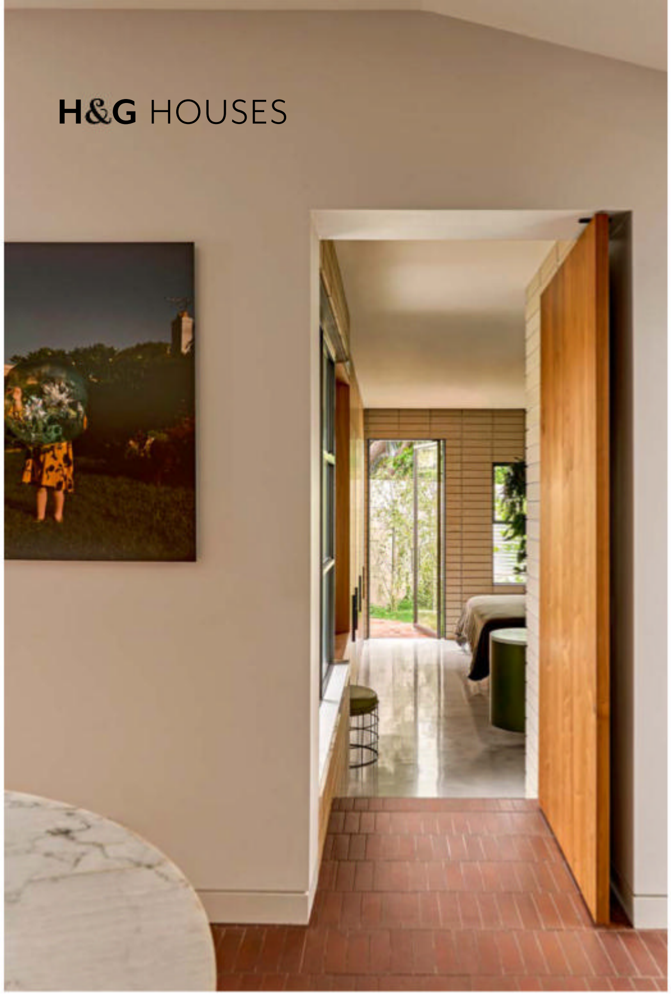


KITCHEN Joinery in walnut timber veneer. Island benchtop in honed Riviera quartzite, Bernini. 'Dita' stool, Grazia&Co. Fisher & Paykel cooktop and ovens, Winnings. Ceiling light, Vibia. Artwork (left) by Lisa Sorgini. Console, Facebook Marketplace. *Succulent* artwork by Georgia Pricone. Custom dining table, Classy Joints. 'TBC2' chairs in Saddle Tan Leather and Pearl White, Dowel Jones. Floor in Inax 'Fabe' tiles, Artedomus. *On the island* 'Junto' cup, Normann Copenhagen. Fruit and bowls by Michelle Barrett.



DINING Michelle made the dining banquette base in the couple's farm workshop and painted it White Knight Forest Green. Custom dining table, Classy Joints. 'TBC2' chairs in Saddle Tan Leather and Pearl White, Dowel Jones. Banquette upholstered in Warwick Fabrics 'Augustus' fabric in Willow, The Upholstery Shop. 'Tempo' wall light, Vibia. *On shelves* Vases, Bonnie and Neil and ceramic sculpture by Michelle Barrett. Bowl on book by Peta Armstrong Ceramics. *Ad Hominem* artwork by Matthew Wright. 'Sponge to Go' portable outdoor table lamp, Nordlux. Floor in Inax 'Fabe' tiles, Artedomus. **COURTYARD** Walls in GB Masonry bricks, Brickworks.



> “It’s like a high-end swanky retreat, which is exactly what we were after.”
>
> MICHELLE, DESIGNER/OWNER

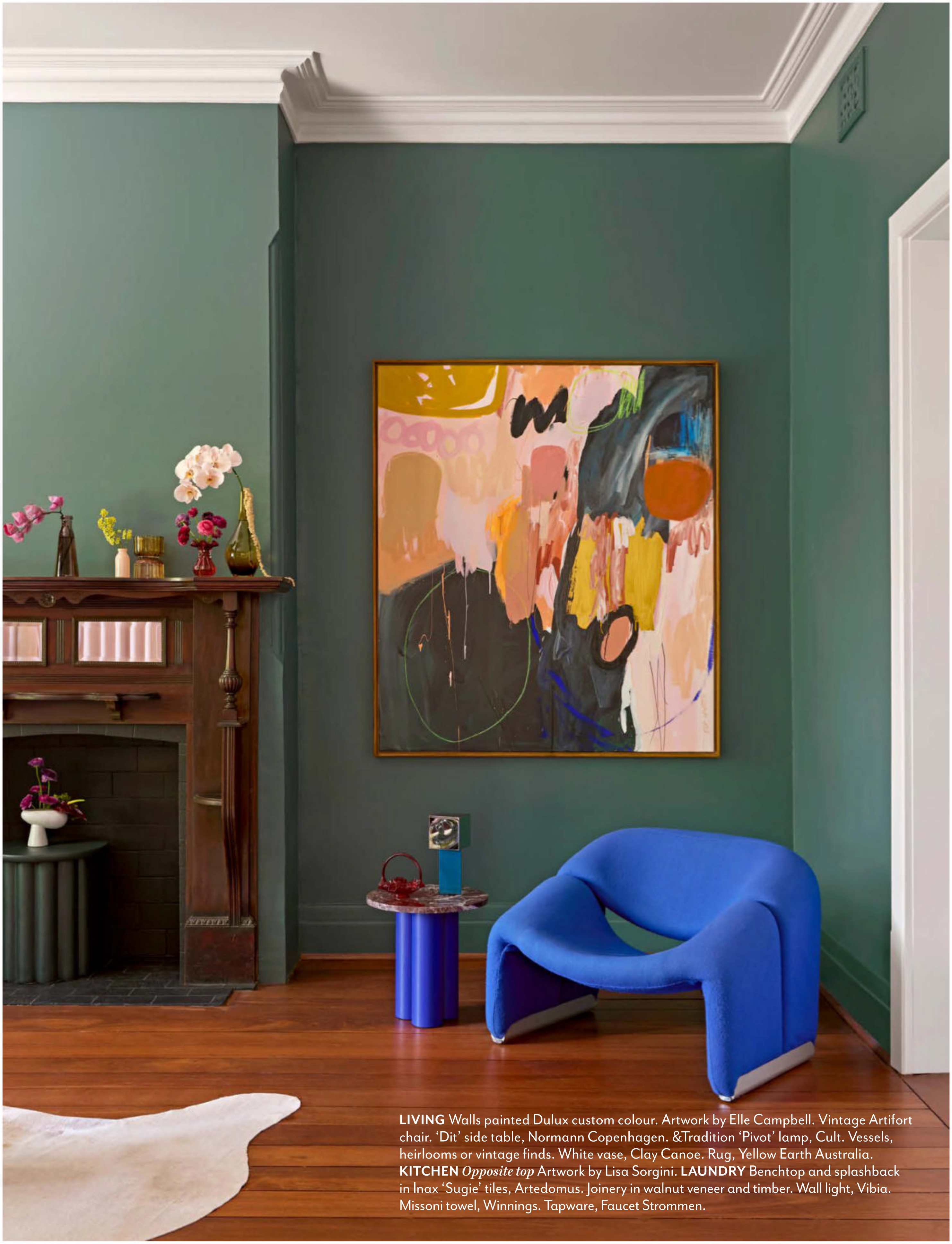
She utilised the existing footprint and added a simple extension, which satisfied the couple’s requirements. Michelle took over the interior design once the floor plans were complete, but stayed in touch with Kate on occasions when they hit a snag.

To the left of the entry, the charming sitting room has been soaked in a custom deep teal colour by Dulux to enhance its traditional features, especially the original fireplace. Opposite, a guest bedroom with a pressed tin ceiling has remained intact. The main bathroom and two more bedrooms – one hiding a small annexed study with repurposed stained glass – feed off the wide hallway. “The girls decided what rooms they wanted and I dealt with them like clients. We spoke about their favourite colours and what made them happy.”

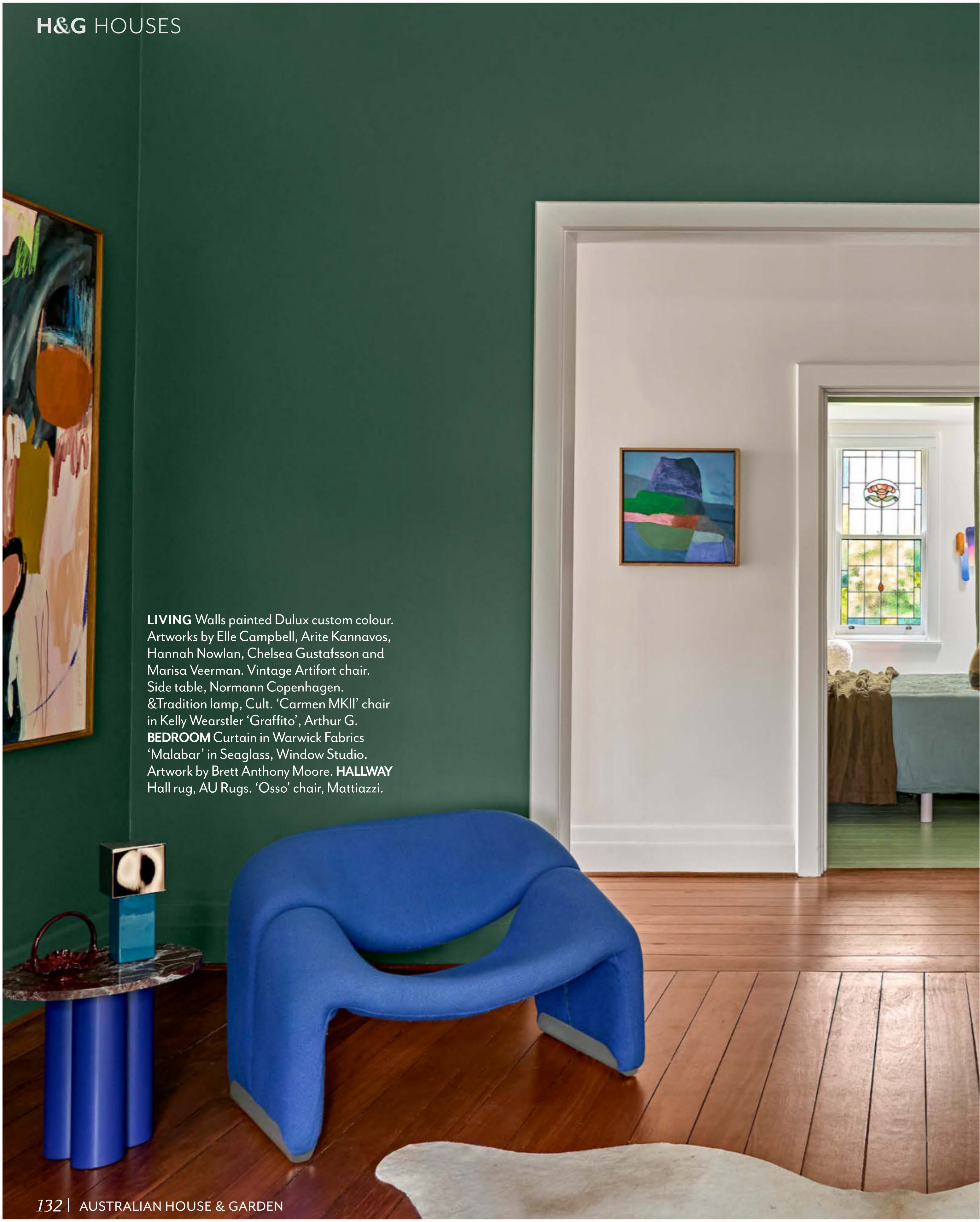
A steel-framed glass pivot door marks the transition between the original home and the rear addition. Maximising the northern aspect, Kate designed the kitchen-dining to completely open it up and added a few steps down to a sunken garden. “The beautiful thing about the Perth weather is that you can practically live outdoors and we wanted to embrace that. There’s far less flies compared to the farm so we didn’t need screens, which means the floor-to-ceiling glass feels like we’re outside even if we’re in the kitchen.”

Beyond is the new stacked brick extension featuring a plant-filled open ensuite with access to the private rear garden with outdoor shower. “We built the bedroom at the back so the girls could have full run of the front of the house,” says Michelle. “It’s like a high-end, swanky retreat, which is exactly what we were after.” ▶

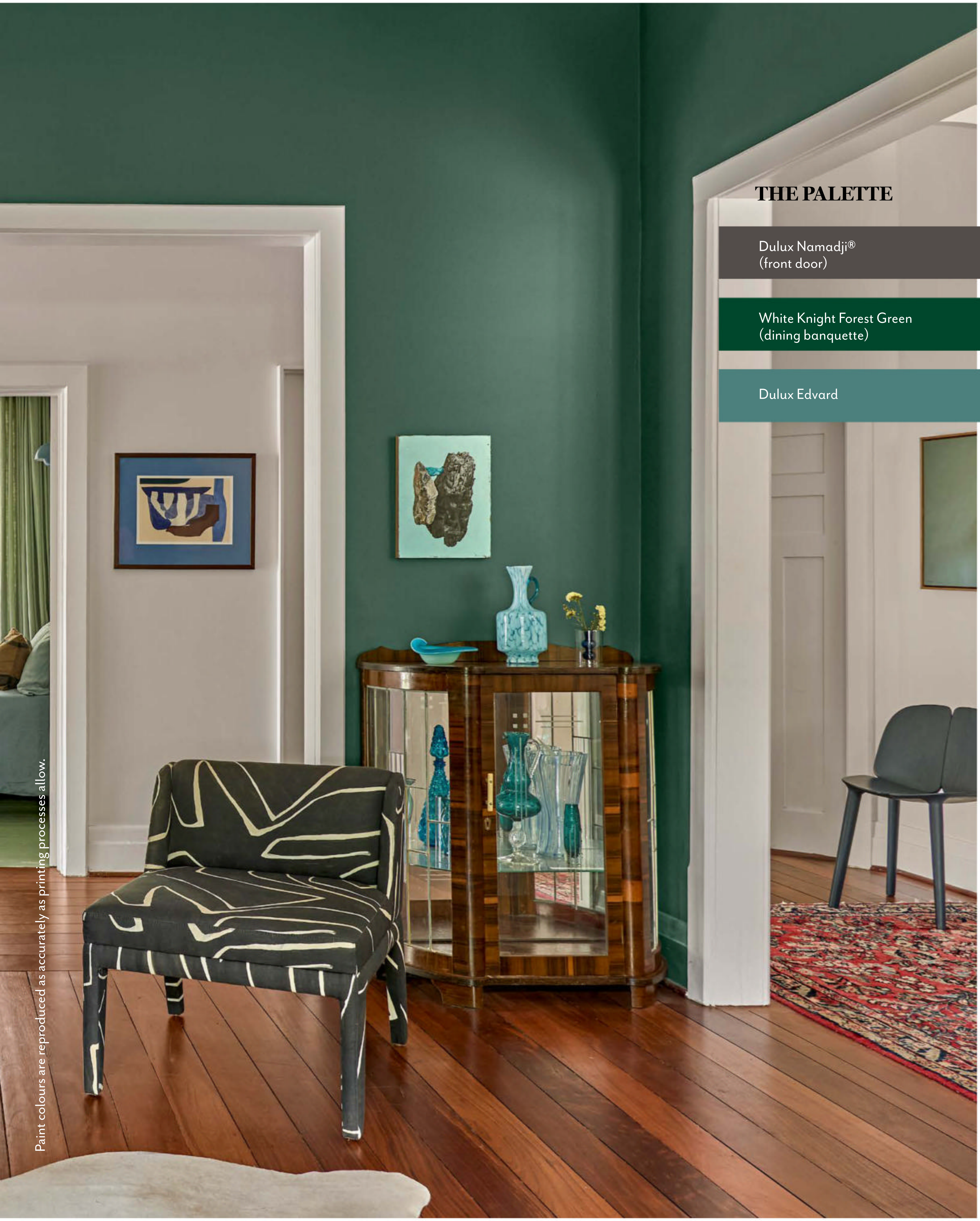
Whispering Smith: *whisperingsmith.com.au.*
Frank & Boyd Design: *@frank_and_boyd.*
Talo Construction: *taloconstruction.com.au.*
M B J: *@mbjbuildingandlandscapes.*



LIVING Walls painted Dulux custom colour. Artwork by Elle Campbell. Vintage Artifort chair. 'Dit' side table, Normann Copenhagen. &Tradition 'Pivot' lamp, Cult. Vessels, heirlooms or vintage finds. White vase, Clay Canoe. Rug, Yellow Earth Australia. **KITCHEN** *Opposite top* Artwork by Lisa Sorgini. **LAUNDRY** Benchtop and splashback in Inax 'Sugie' tiles, Artedomus. Joinery in walnut veneer and timber. Wall light, Vibia. Missoni towel, Winnings. Tapware, Faucet Strommen.



LIVING Walls painted Dulux custom colour. Artworks by Elle Campbell, Arite Kannavos, Hannah Nowlan, Chelsea Gustafsson and Marisa Veerman. Vintage Artifort chair. Side table, Normann Copenhagen. &Tradition lamp, Cult. 'Carmen MKII' chair in Kelly Wearstler 'Graffito', Arthur G. **BEDROOM** Curtain in Warwick Fabrics 'Malabar' in Seaglass, Window Studio. Artwork by Brett Anthony Moore. **HALLWAY** Hall rug, AU Rugs. 'Osso' chair, Mattiazzi.



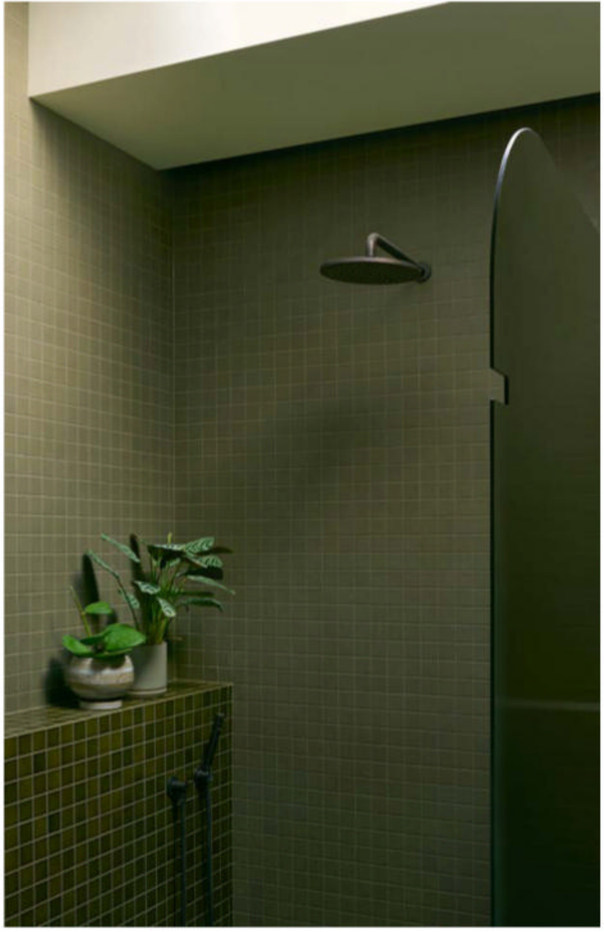
THE PALETTE

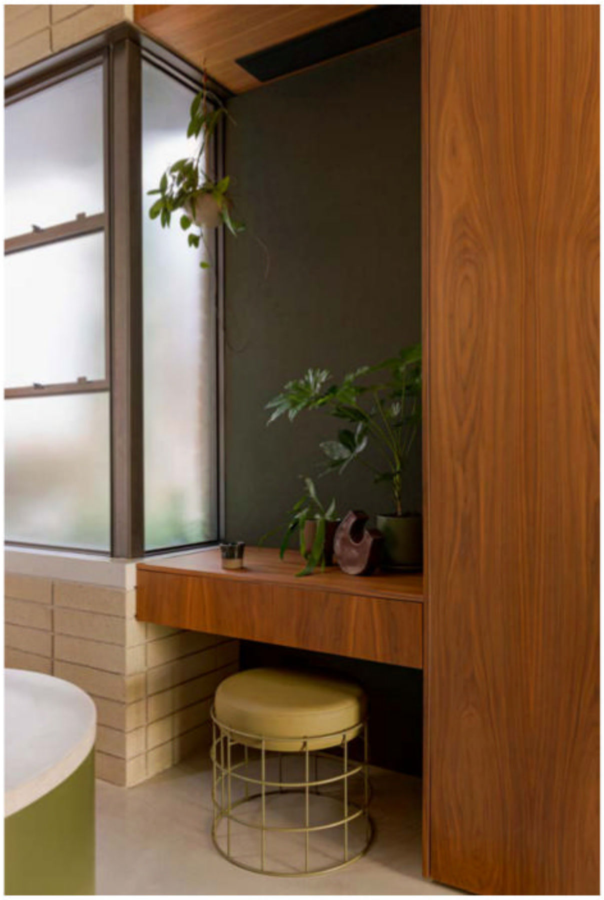
Dulux Namadji®
(front door)

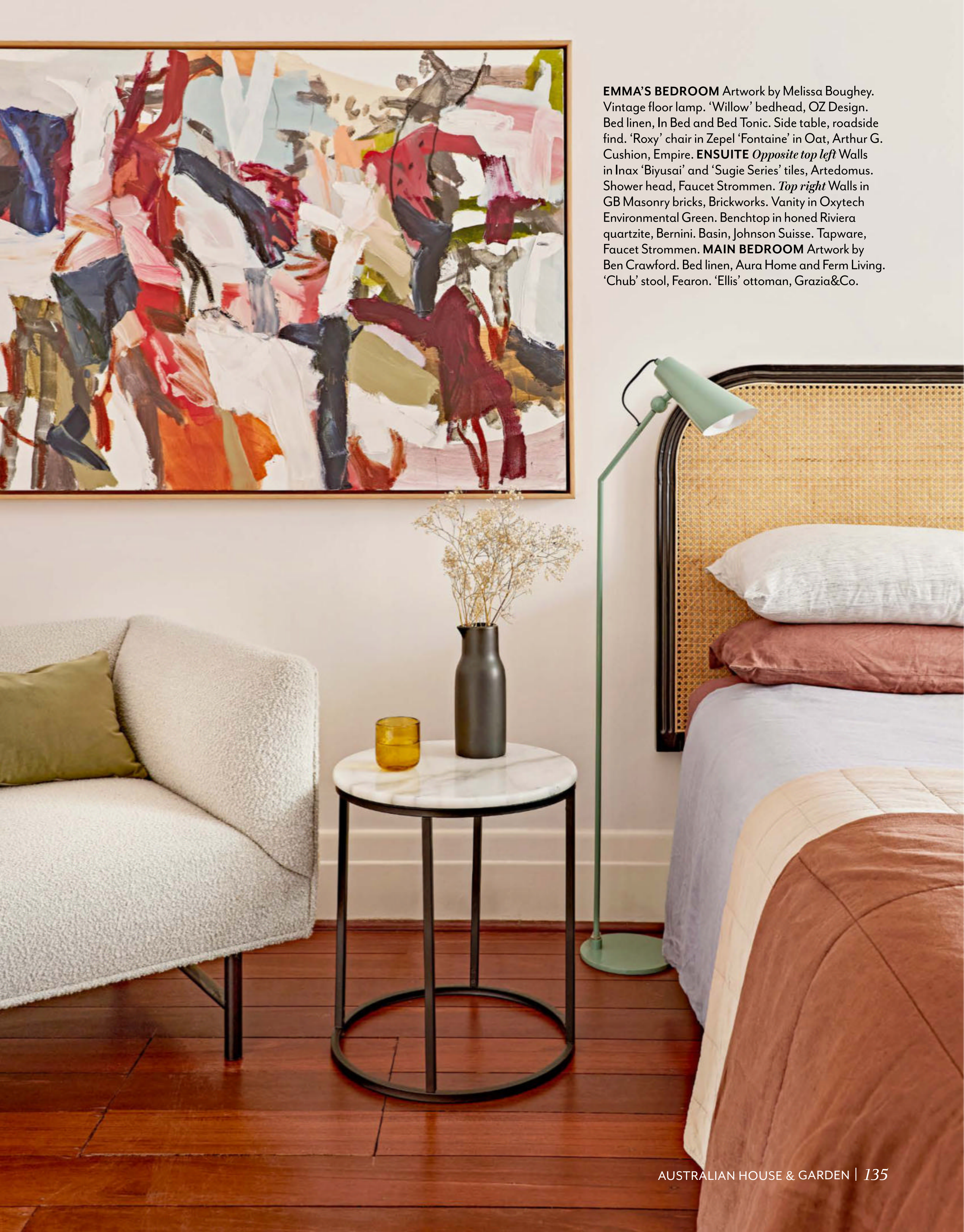
White Knight Forest Green
(dining banquette)

Dulux Edvard

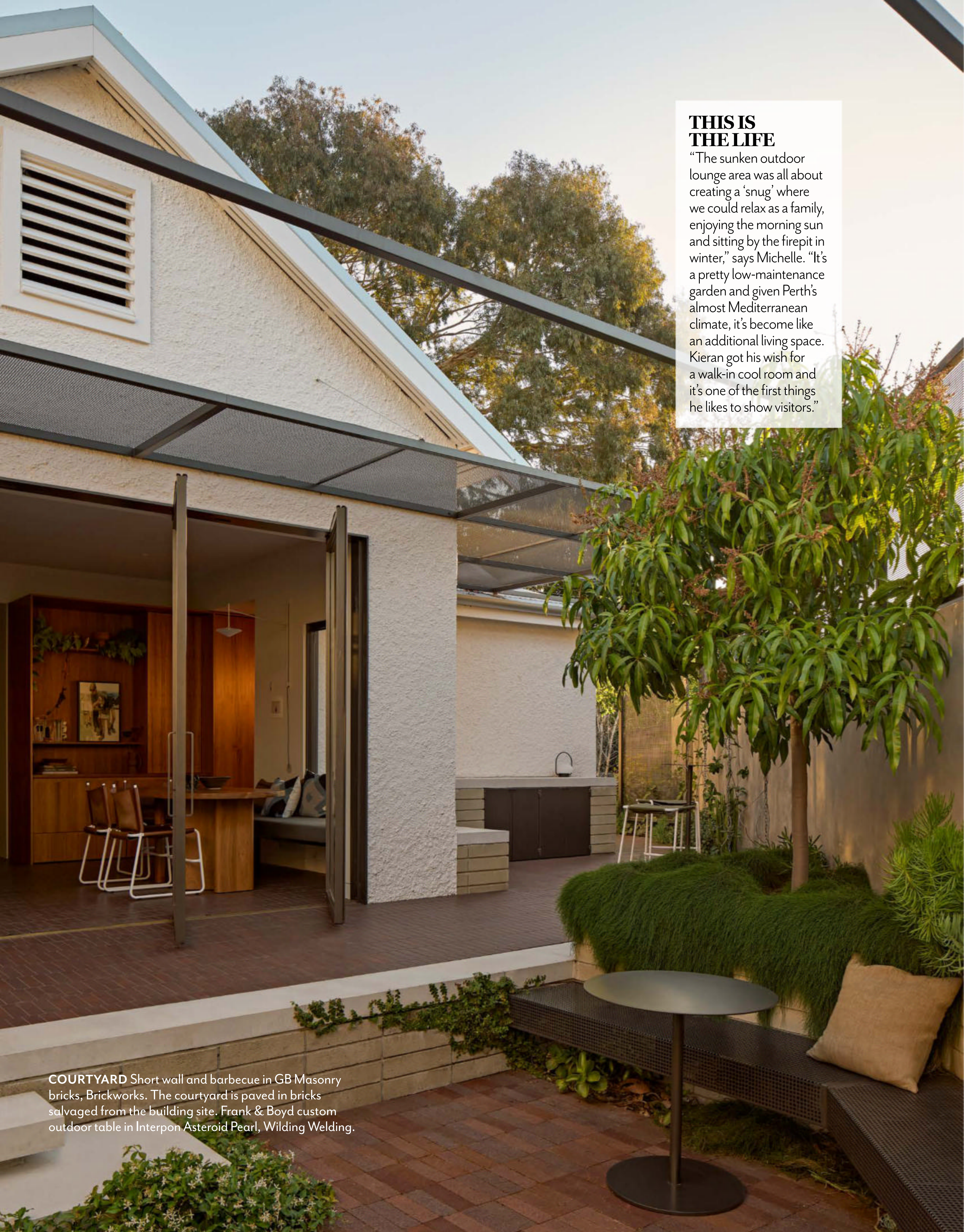
Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.







EMMA'S BEDROOM Artwork by Melissa Boughey. Vintage floor lamp. 'Willow' bedhead, OZ Design. Bed linen, In Bed and Bed Tonic. Side table, roadside find. 'Roxy' chair in Zepel 'Fontaine' in Oat, Arthur G. Cushion, Empire. **ENSUITE** ***Opposite top left*** Walls in Inax 'Biyusai' and 'Sugie Series' tiles, Artedomus. Shower head, Faucet Strommen. ***Top right*** Walls in GB Masonry bricks, Brickworks. Vanity in Oxytech Environmental Green. Benchtop in honed Riviera quartzite, Bernini. Basin, Johnson Suisse. Tapware, Faucet Strommen. **MAIN BEDROOM** Artwork by Ben Crawford. Bed linen, Aura Home and Ferm Living. 'Chub' stool, Fearon. 'Ellis' ottoman, Grazia&Co.



THIS IS THE LIFE

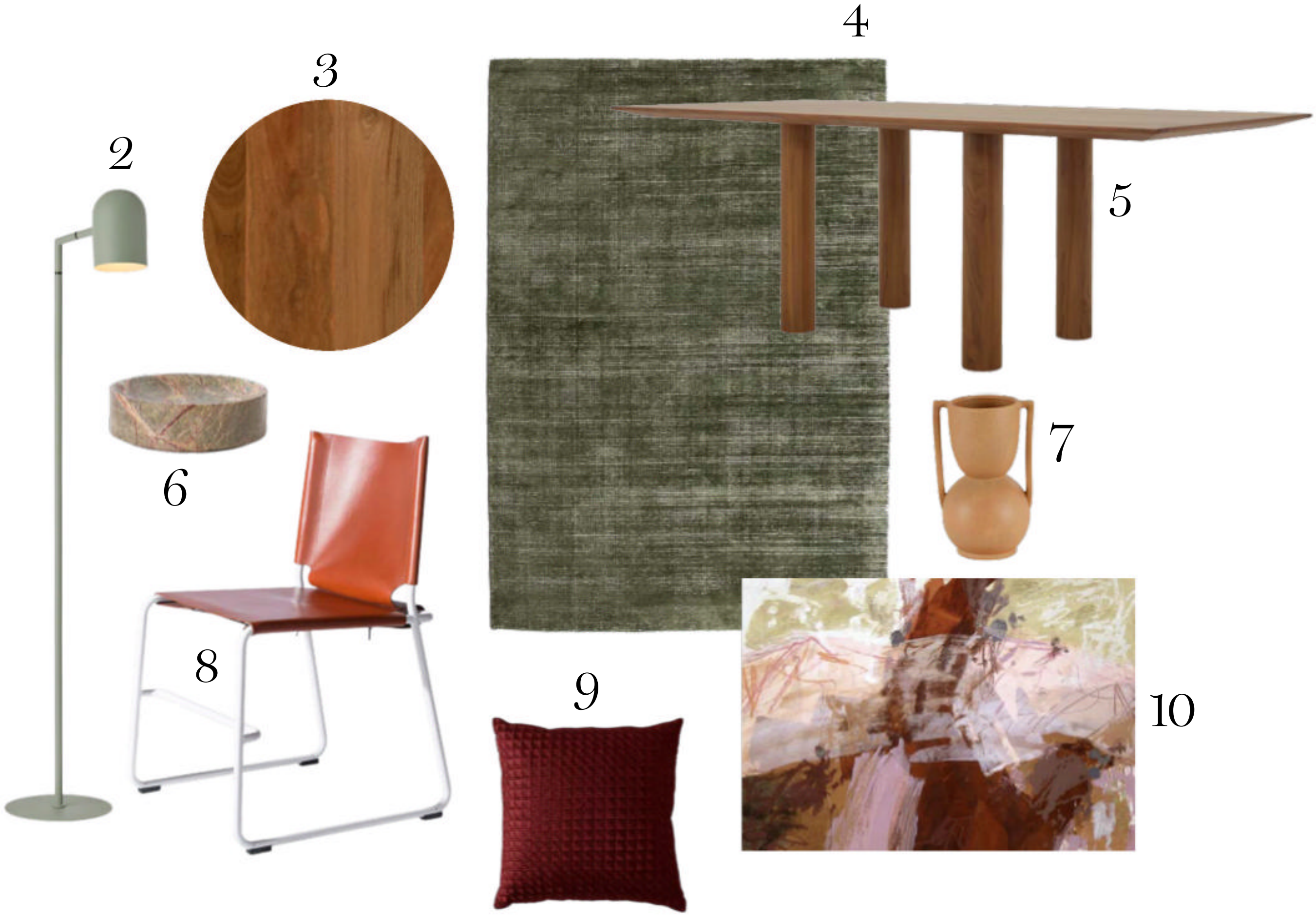
"The sunken outdoor lounge area was all about creating a 'snug' where we could relax as a family, enjoying the morning sun and sitting by the firepit in winter," says Michelle. "It's a pretty low-maintenance garden and given Perth's almost Mediterranean climate, it's become like an additional living space. Kieran got his wish for a walk-in cool room and it's one of the first things he likes to show visitors."

COURTYARD Short wall and barbecue in GB Masonry bricks, Brickworks. The courtyard is paved in bricks salvaged from the building site. Frank & Boyd custom outdoor table in Interpon Asteroid Pearl, Wilding Welding.

1

THE SOURCE

Strike a balance between restrained and vibrant interiors, by choosing colourful pieces that spark joy.



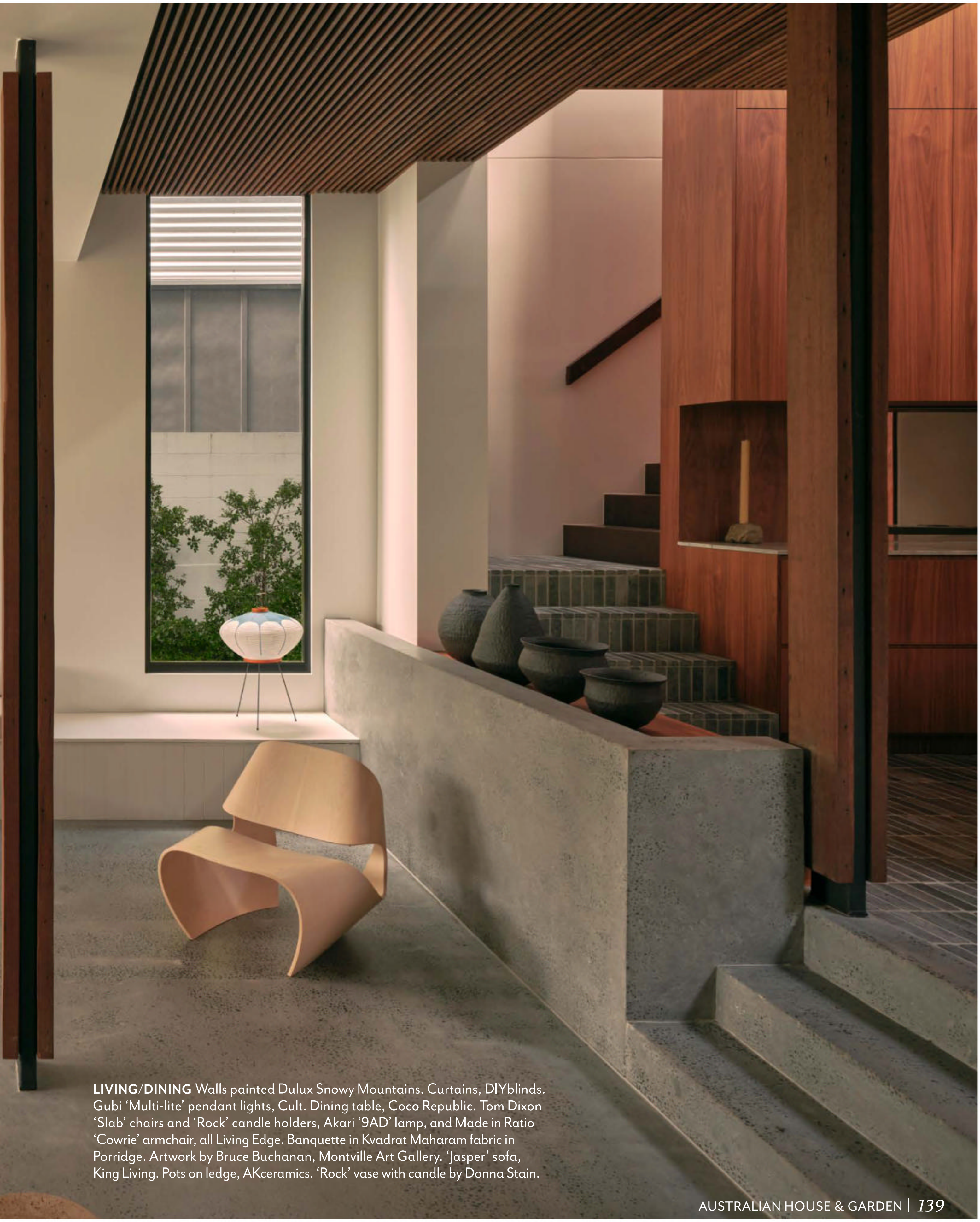
1 'Fink' **bowl** in Blue, $199.95, Make Designed Objects. **2** 'Pia' **floor lamp** in Sage Green, $349, Life Interiors. **3** Plantino 'Native Landmark' engineered timber **flooring** in Spotted Gum, POA, Choices Flooring. **4** Colorscope by Cadrys 'Elements' **rug** in Green (300x200cm), $2349, Freedom. **5** 'Earth 220' **dining table** in Oak, $2699, Ellison Studios. **6** 'Grove' **marble dish**, $119, Citta Design. **7** Florabelle 'Sloane' **ceramic vase** in Sand, $69.95, Myer. **8** 'TBC2' **chair**, $860, Dowel Jones. **9** Greg Natale 'Ponti' **cushion** in Burgundy, $180, The Iconic. **10** *Dust and Dirt II*, 2024 **artwork** by Pamela Honeyfield, $1500, Defiance Gallery. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

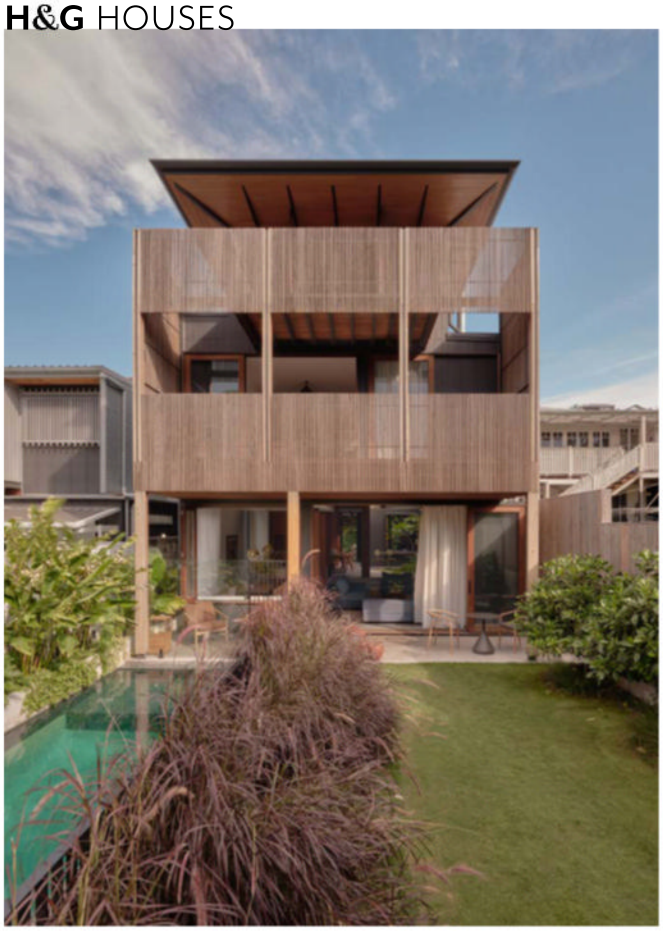
TROPICAL *front*

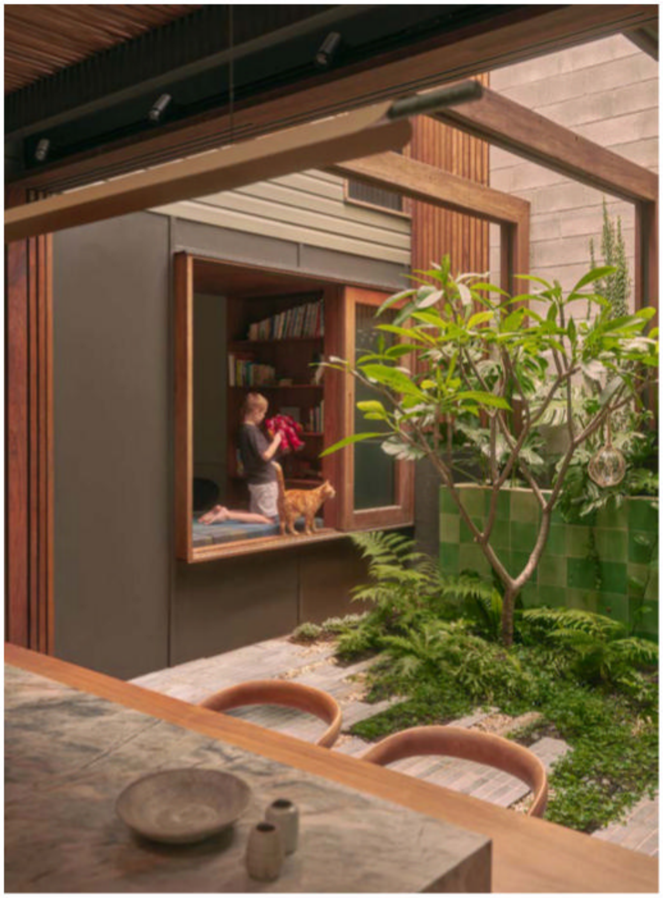
A central courtyard and warm palette of timbers inspired by the tropics defines this renovated Queenslander.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Tory Waller* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Cieran Murphy*



LIVING/DINING Walls painted Dulux Snowy Mountains. Curtains, DIYblinds. Gubi 'Multi-lite' pendant lights, Cult. Dining table, Coco Republic. Tom Dixon 'Slab' chairs and 'Rock' candle holders, Akari '9AD' lamp, and Made in Ratio 'Cowrie' armchair, all Living Edge. Banquette in Kvadrat Maharam fabric in Porridge. Artwork by Bruce Buchanan, Montville Art Gallery. 'Jasper' sofa, King Living. Pots on ledge, AKceramics. 'Rock' vase with candle by Donna Stain.





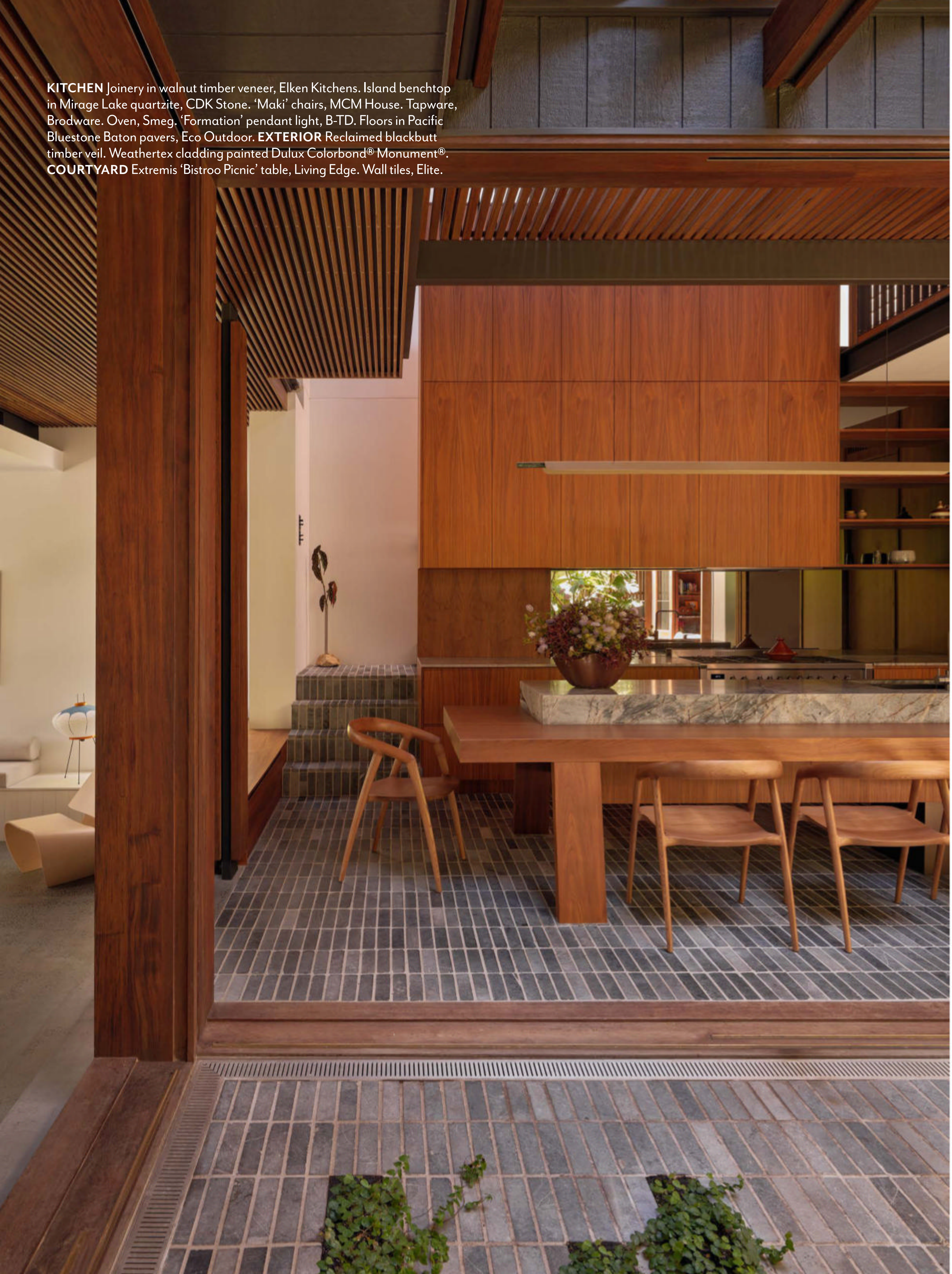
Motivated by the mild Queensland climate, the owner and architect of this riverside inner Brisbane property, Alexandra Buchanan, drew on subtle, tropical references to transform and ground her family home. "The interiors have rich, textural reference to the tropics," she says, referring to the palette of hardwood, concrete and bluestone. "It speaks to the laid-back Sri Lankan and Singaporean architecture that my husband and I love."

The temperature was a major influence on the design concept, allowing a series of spaces that are at one with the outdoors. And the strategic placement of eaves and balconies means that even when it's pouring, the water doesn't come in. "We still feel tucked in and protected when it's raining," says Alexandra, whose eponymous practice is based in the Fortitude Valley. "The big courtyard doors can stay open so we're always engaged with the outdoors - but never get wet."

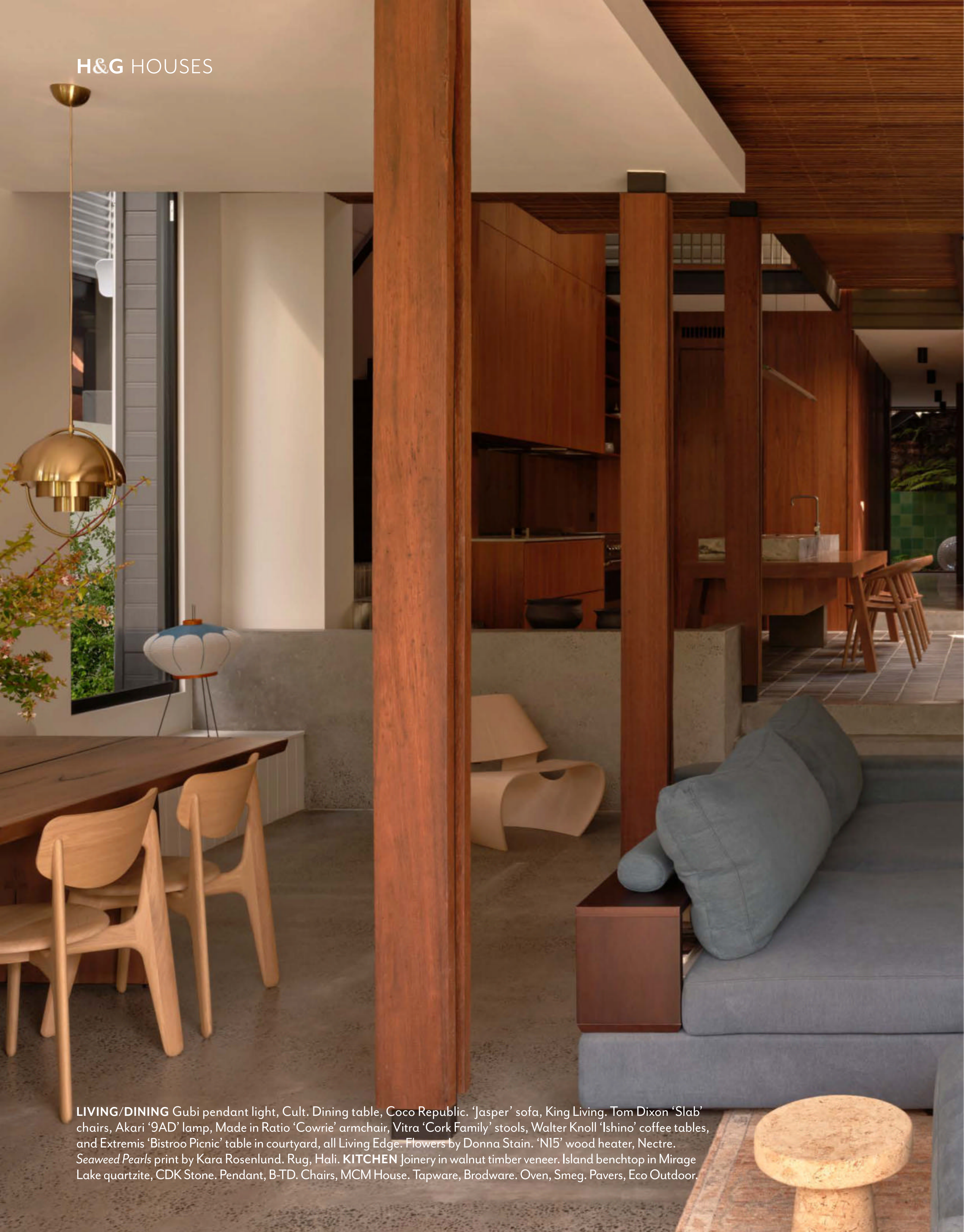
Alexandra and her husband bought the tired Queenslander in 2012 with a plan to eventually renovate. They loved the character of the existing home and wanted to retain the facade, but it wasn't big enough to suit their needs.

As the house is in a demolition control area, they knew the 1920s exterior had to be retained and Alexandra worked hard to ensure the extension wouldn't be visible from the street. So, although it may appear small and discreet from the outside, the steepness of the site allowed for a generous extension that spans across three levels. "We wanted to follow the lay of the land because it delineates the ceiling height," says Alexandra. "And because the floor levels sit against the contours of the hill, it creates surprising height beneath the house itself."

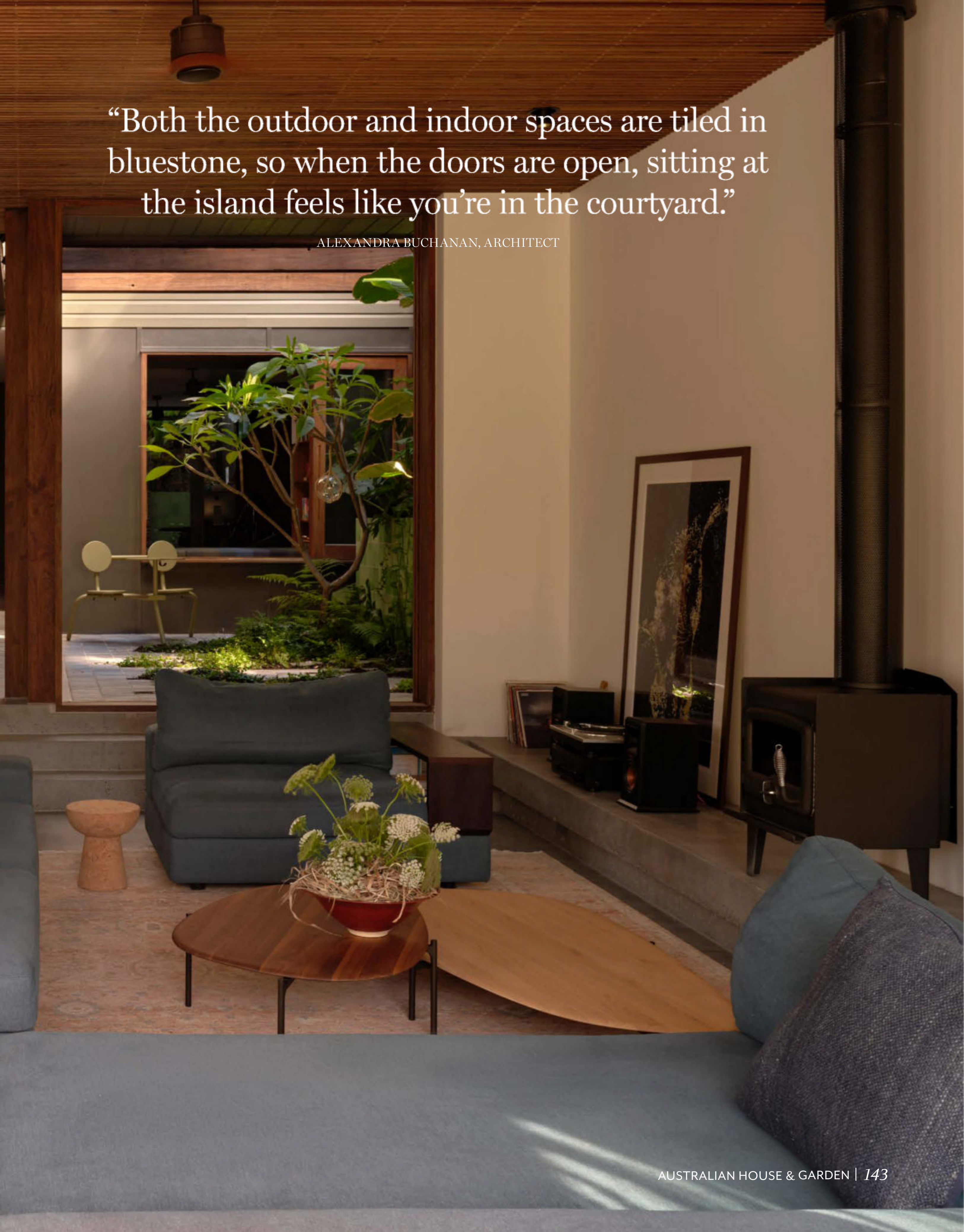
▶



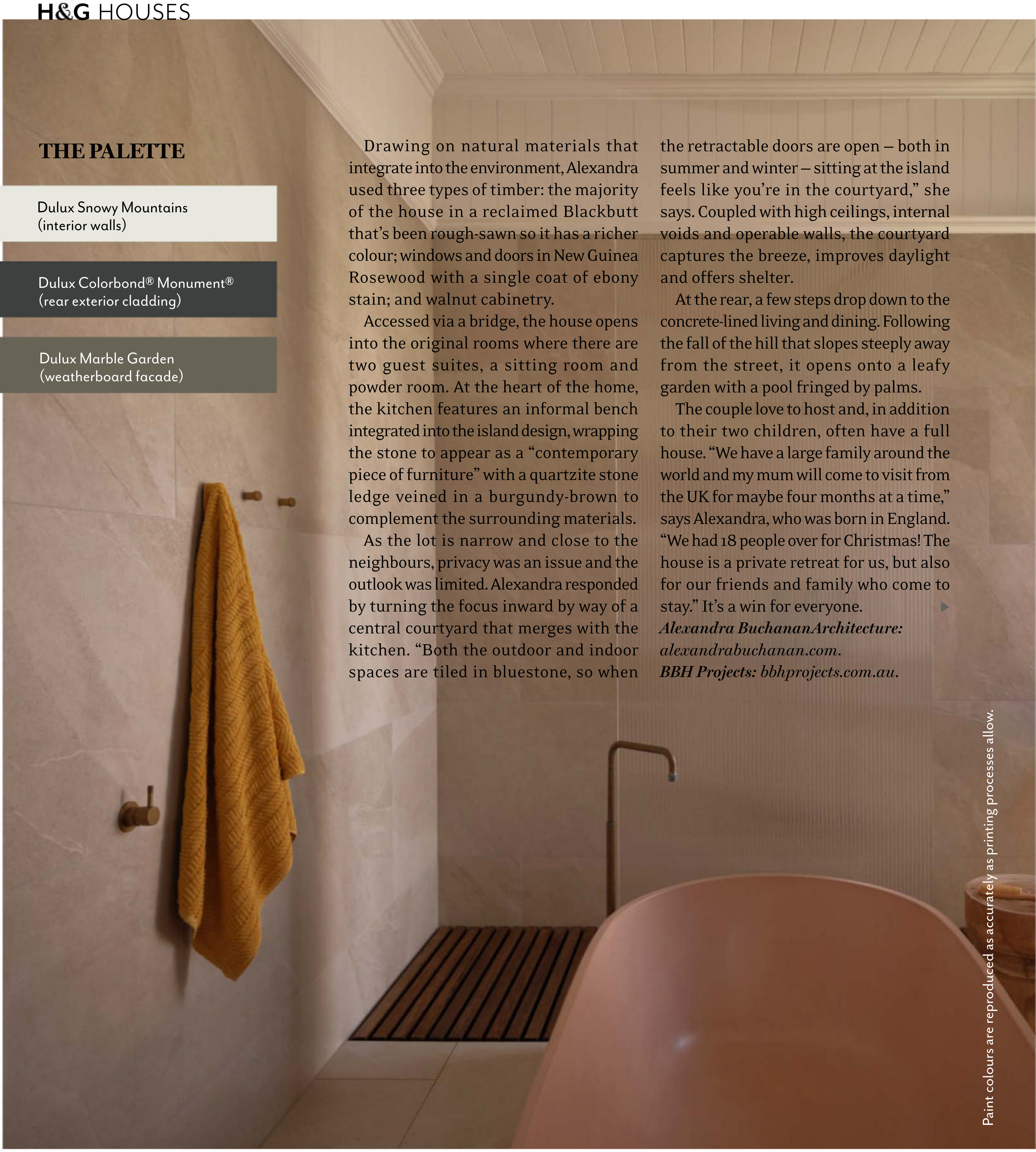
KITCHEN Joinery in walnut timber veneer, Elken Kitchens. Island benchtop in Mirage Lake quartzite, CDK Stone. 'Maki' chairs, MCM House. Tapware, Brodware. Oven, Smeg. 'Formation' pendant light, B-TD. Floors in Pacific Bluestone Baton pavers, Eco Outdoor. **EXTERIOR** Reclaimed blackbutt timber veil. Weathertex cladding painted Dulux Colorbond® Monument®. **COURTYARD** Extremis 'Bistroo Picnic' table, Living Edge. Wall tiles, Elite.



LIVING/DINING Gubi pendant light, Cult. Dining table, Coco Republic. 'Jasper' sofa, King Living. Tom Dixon 'Slab' chairs, Akari '9AD' lamp, Made in Ratio 'Cowrie' armchair, Vitra 'Cork Family' stools, Walter Knoll 'Ishino' coffee tables, and Extremis 'Bistroo Picnic' table in courtyard, all Living Edge. Flowers by Donna Stain. 'N15' wood heater, Nectre. *Seaweed Pearls* print by Kara Rosenlund. Rug, Hali. **KITCHEN** Joinery in walnut timber veneer. Island benchtop in Mirage Lake quartzite, CDK Stone. Pendant, B-TD. Chairs, MCM House. Tapware, Brodware. Oven, Smeg. Pavers, Eco Outdoor.



> “Both the outdoor and indoor spaces are tiled in bluestone, so when the doors are open, sitting at the island feels like you’re in the courtyard.”
>
> ALEXANDRA BUCHANAN, ARCHITECT



THE PALETTE

Dulux Snowy Mountains
(interior walls)

Dulux Colorbond® Monument®
(rear exterior cladding)

Dulux Marble Garden
(weatherboard facade)

Drawing on natural materials that integrate into the environment, Alexandra used three types of timber: the majority of the house in a reclaimed Blackbutt that's been rough-sawn so it has a richer colour; windows and doors in New Guinea Rosewood with a single coat of ebony stain; and walnut cabinetry.

Accessed via a bridge, the house opens into the original rooms where there are two guest suites, a sitting room and powder room. At the heart of the home, the kitchen features an informal bench integrated into the island design, wrapping the stone to appear as a "contemporary piece of furniture" with a quartzite stone ledge veined in a burgundy-brown to complement the surrounding materials.

As the lot is narrow and close to the neighbours, privacy was an issue and the outlook was limited. Alexandra responded by turning the focus inward by way of a central courtyard that merges with the kitchen. "Both the outdoor and indoor spaces are tiled in bluestone, so when the retractable doors are open – both in summer and winter – sitting at the island feels like you're in the courtyard," she says. Coupled with high ceilings, internal voids and operable walls, the courtyard captures the breeze, improves daylight and offers shelter.

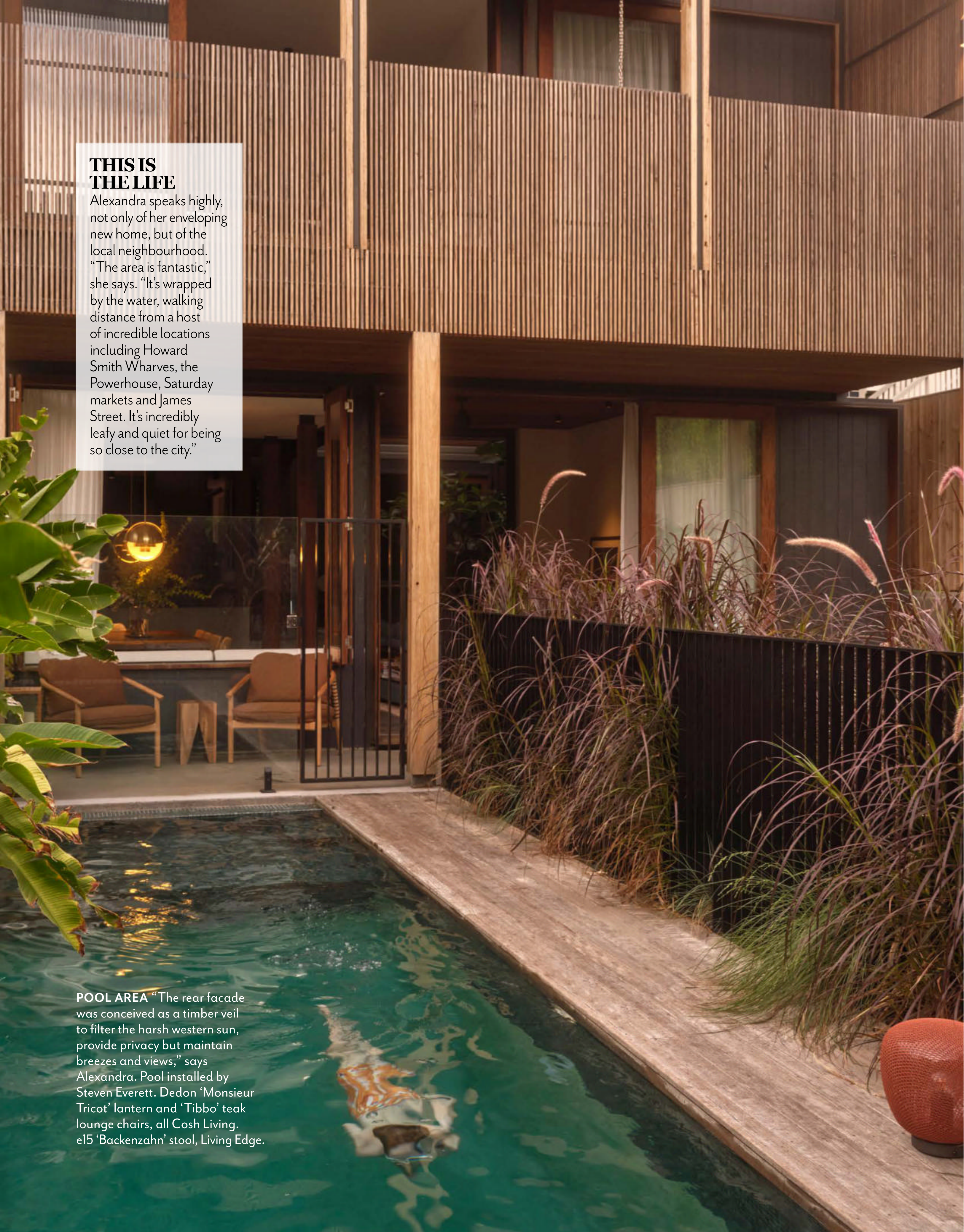
At the rear, a few steps drop down to the concrete-lined living and dining. Following the fall of the hill that slopes steeply away from the street, it opens onto a leafy garden with a pool fringed by palms.

The couple love to host and, in addition to their two children, often have a full house. "We have a large family around the world and my mum will come to visit from the UK for maybe four months at a time," says Alexandra, who was born in England. "We had 18 people over for Christmas! The house is a private retreat for us, but also for our friends and family who come to stay." It's a win for everyone. ▶

Alexandra BuchananArchitecture: *alexandrabuchanan.com.*
BBH Projects: *bbhprojects.com.au.*

FAMILY BATHROOM Vanity in Polytec Woodmatt Florentine Walnut. Basin in Calce microcement. Walls and floor in 'Enzo' tiles, Stone3. Bath, CN by Nood Co. Tapware and hardware, Brodware. Gubi 'Adnet' wall mirror, Cult. Pendant light, Lighting Collective. Vase and flower by Donna Stain. 'Devon' towel in Mustard, Bed Bath N' Table. **BEDROOM** Pendant light, Lighting Collective. Artwork by A. Castor. Design Within Reach bedside table, and Tom Dixon 'Bell' portable table lamp, both Living Edge. **EXTERIOR** Existing weatherboard facade painted Dulux Marble Garden.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



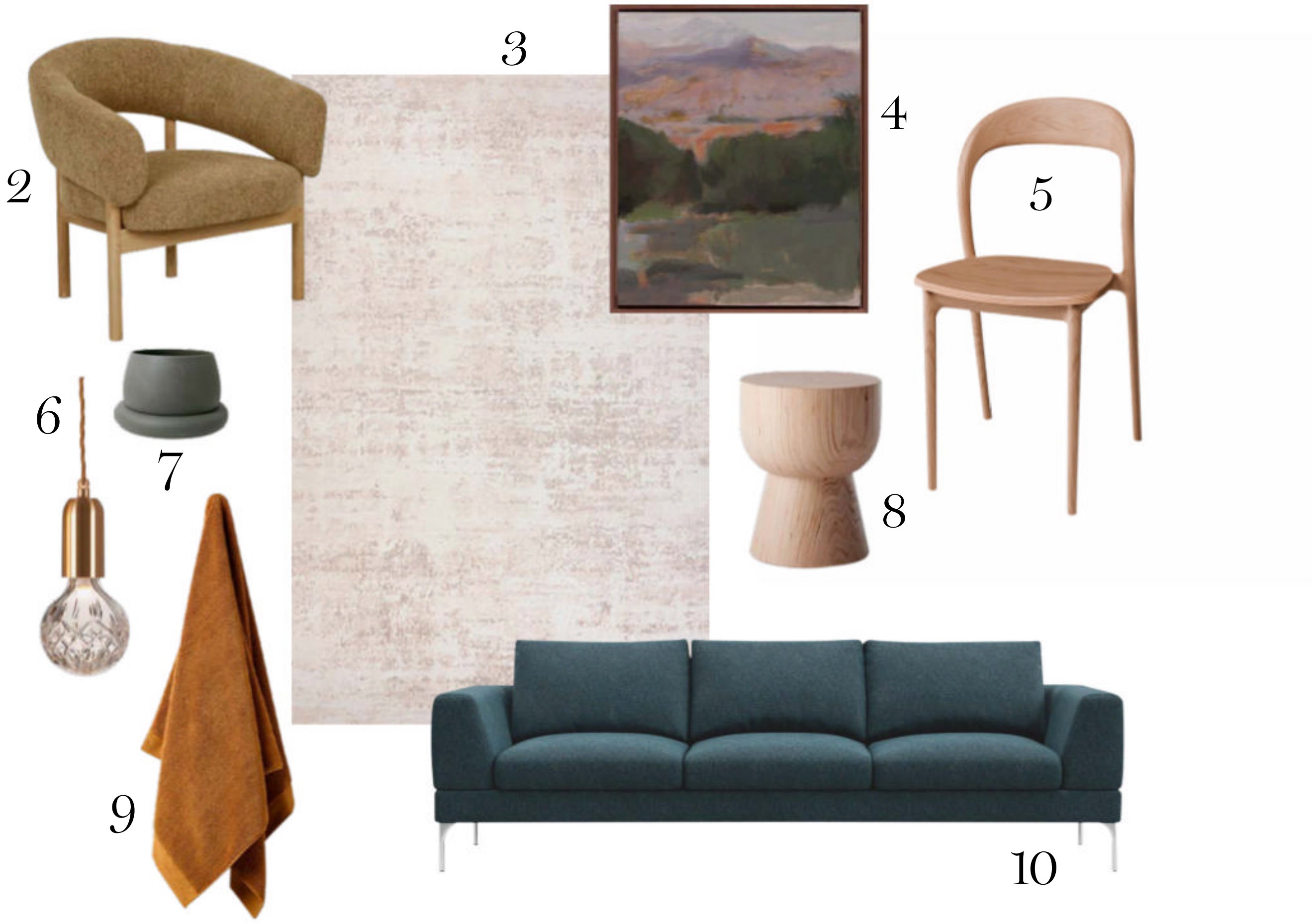
THIS IS THE LIFE

Alexandra speaks highly, not only of her enveloping new home, but of the local neighbourhood. “The area is fantastic,” she says. “It’s wrapped by the water, walking distance from a host of incredible locations including Howard Smith Wharves, the Powerhouse, Saturday markets and James Street. It’s incredibly leafy and quiet for being so close to the city.”

POOL AREA “The rear facade was conceived as a timber veil to filter the harsh western sun, provide privacy but maintain breezes and views,” says Alexandra. Pool installed by Steven Everett. Dedon ‘Monsieur Tricot’ lantern and ‘Tibbo’ teak lounge chairs, all Cosh Living. e15 ‘Backenzahn’ stool, Living Edge.

THE SOURCE

Establish an inviting warmth with layers of timber, soft upholstery and nature-inspired colours.



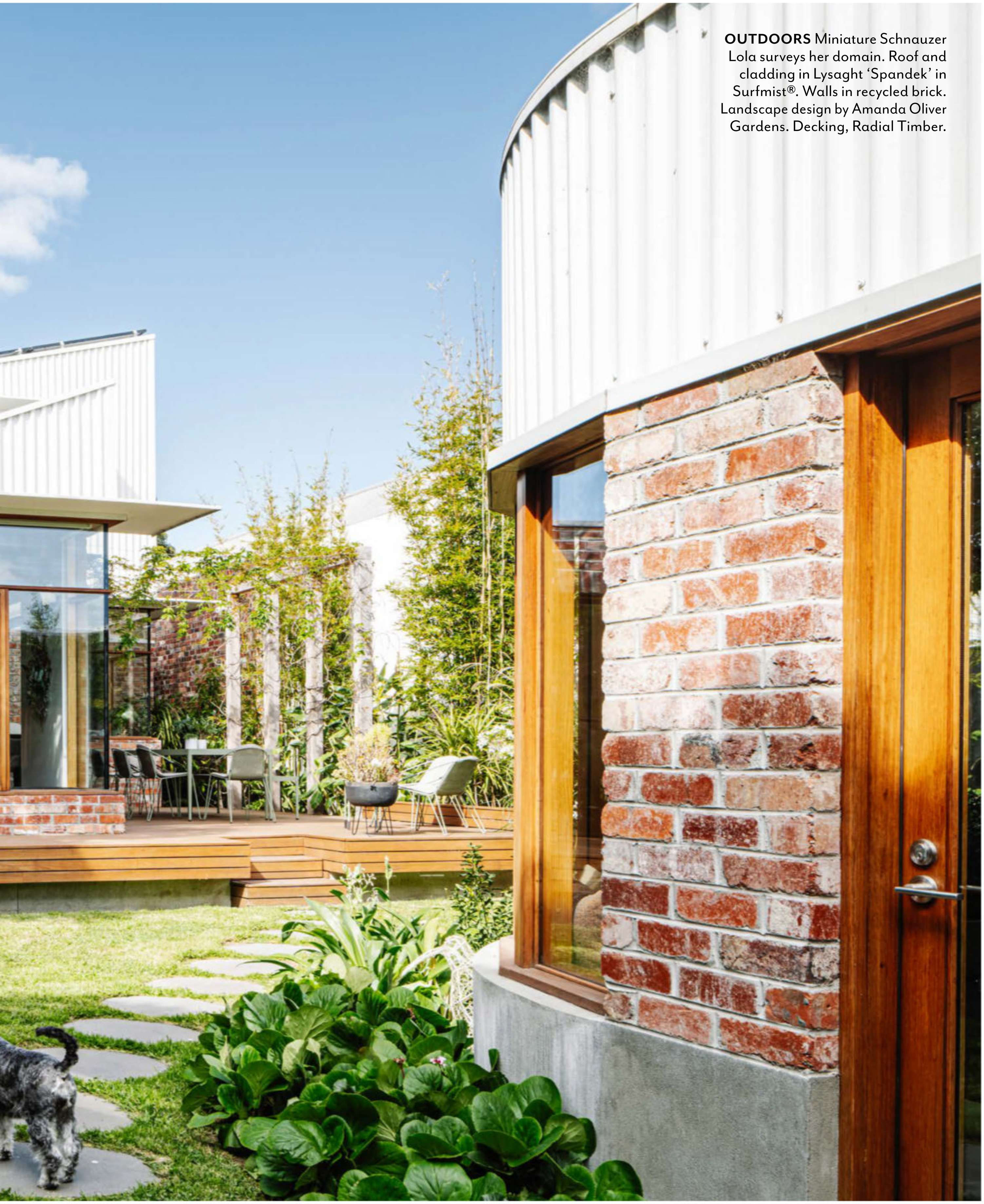
1 Gubi 'Multi-lite' pendant light, $1199, Cult. **2** Globewest 'Jenson' **occasional chair**, $2690, The Banyan Tree. **3** 'Essenza' **rug** in Mottled Cream Grey, $999, Harvey Norman.**4** *V9 Re Wilding The West* **artwork** by Greg Wood, $1750, Otomys. **5** 'Mellila' **dining chair** in Natural, $329, Freedom. **6** Lee Broom clear crystal bulb **pendant light** in Brushed Brass, $595, Space. **7** 'Cloud' **planter** in Forest Green, $69.95, Robert Gordon. **8** White Gum 'Eggcup' **stool**, $1360, Mark Tuckey. **9** Aura Home 'Haven' Australian cotton **bath towel** in Bronze, $59.95, Myer. **10** 'Plaza' three-seater **sofa** in Baxter Indigo, $4108, King Living. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

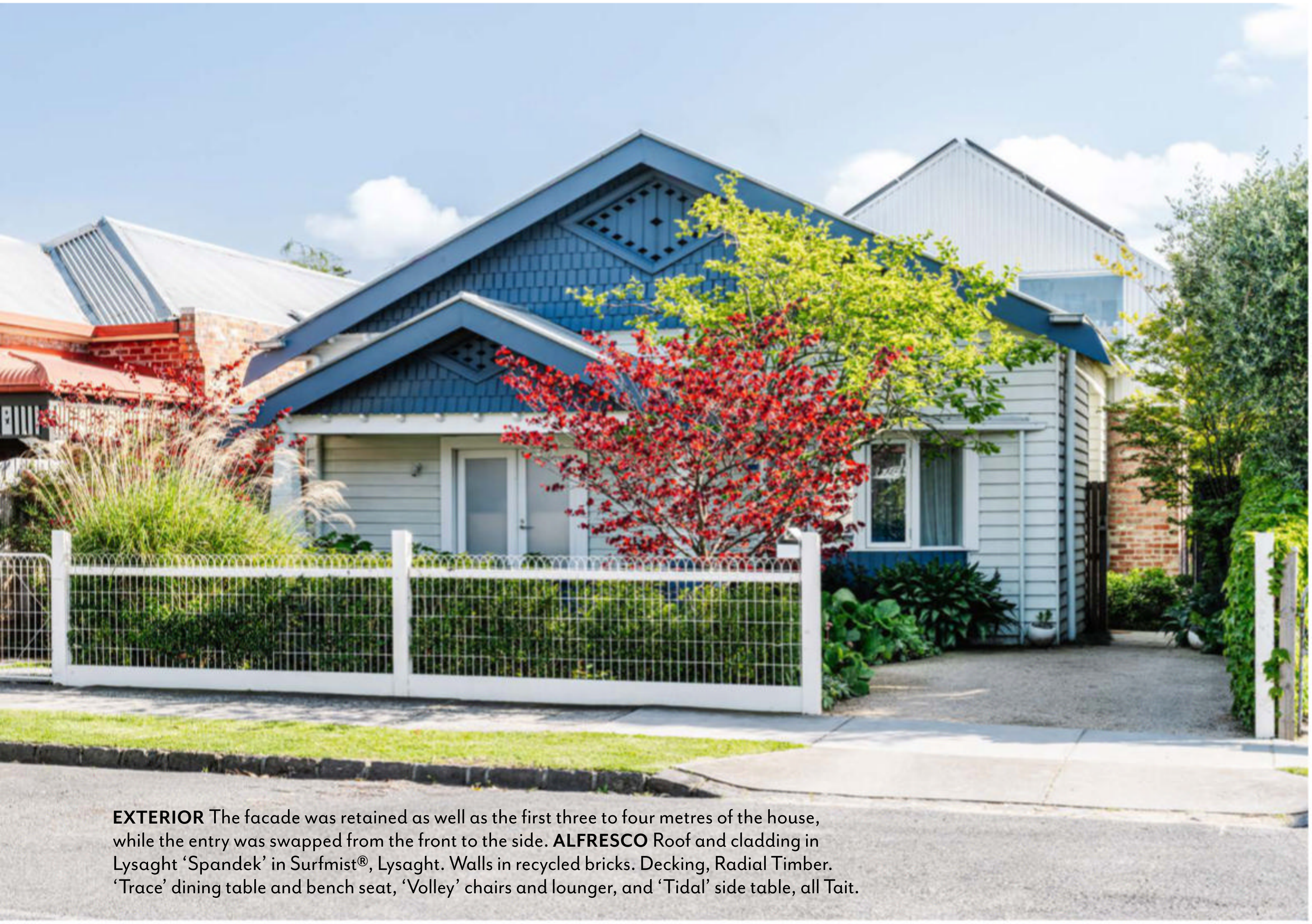
INTO THE FOLD

Aptly named Chatterbox House, this Melbourne bungalow's two-storey extension was inspired by the children's paper-folding game.

STORY *Karen Spresser* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Marnie Hawson*



OUTDOORS Miniature Schnauzer Lola surveys her domain. Roof and cladding in Lysaght 'Spandek' in Surfmist®. Walls in recycled brick. Landscape design by Amanda Oliver Gardens. Decking, Radial Timber.



EXTERIOR The facade was retained as well as the first three to four metres of the house, while the entry was swapped from the front to the side. **ALFRESCO** Roof and cladding in Lysaght 'Spandek' in Surfmist®, Lysaght. Walls in recycled bricks. Decking, Radial Timber. 'Trace' dining table and bench seat, 'Volley' chairs and lounger, and 'Tidal' side table, all Tait.

A thoughtful, extensive renovation has transformed what was once a dark and dated bungalow into a charming and light-filled family home, brimming with considered additions, colourful art and abundant greenery.

The homeowners bought the house on the land of the Wurundjeri people in 2017 and asked Emilio Fuscaldo of Nest Architects to breathe new life into this inner-city Melbourne property.

Part of their brief was for a house with functional spaces that were linked but not open, with the garden and courtyards a priority. They also wanted a house that could adapt to the changing needs of their family, including separate living spaces for their children as they grew older and room for elderly parents.

"It wasn't in great condition," says Emilio. "In terms of the state of the house, the fabric was compromised and the site itself is on an old creek bed. So, we had lots of issues to deal with, hence why the new work was so extensive – there wasn't much to keep."

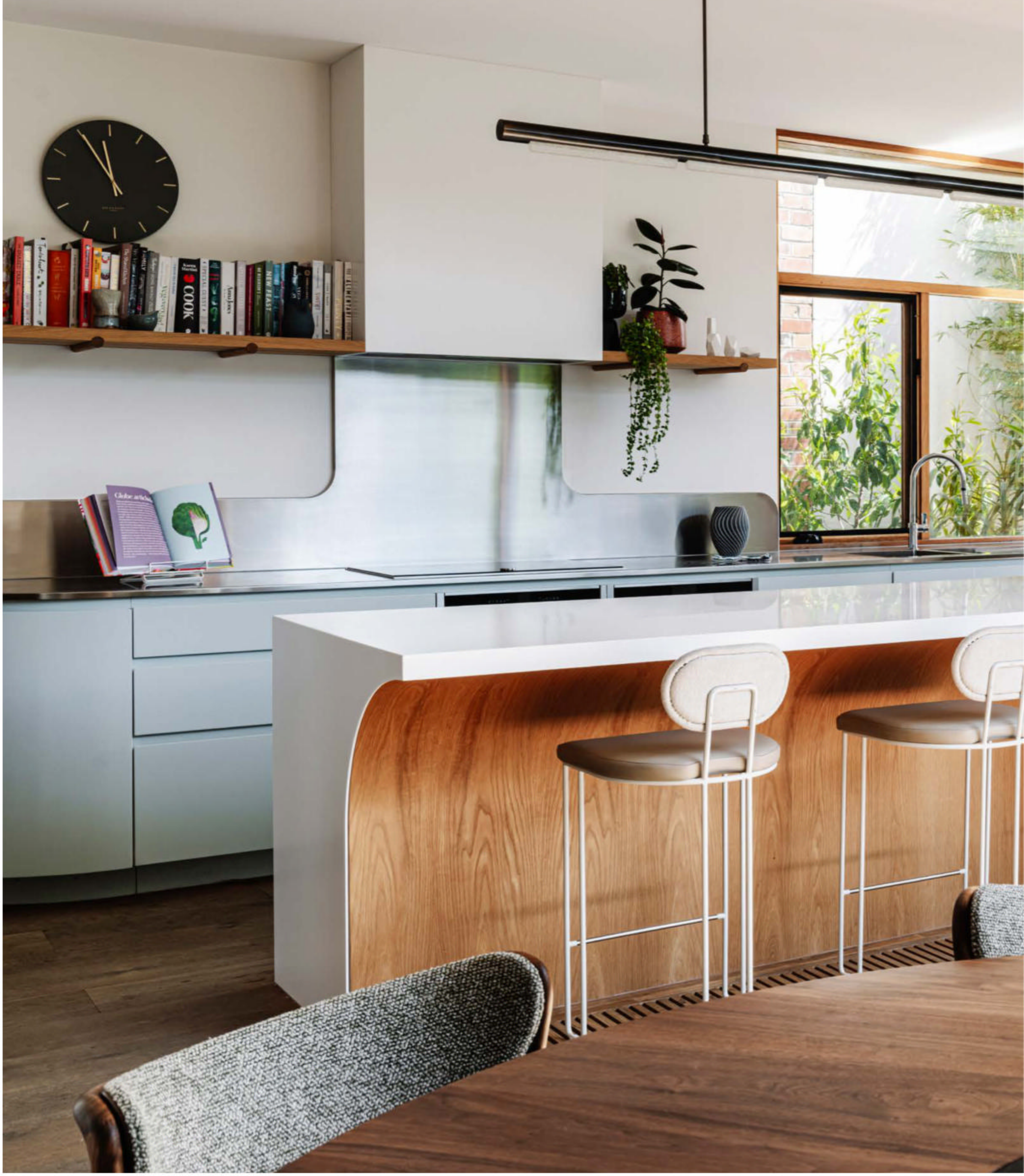
The first three to four metres of the house remained, with the entry swapped from the front to the side and the front verandah reinstated. The main bedroom suite now resides in the original part of the house with a further two bedrooms in the new two-storey extension. A studio sits in the garden, home to another bedroom, bathroom and living area.

Plans saw a careful 'unfolding' of spaces as you moved through the house, with a series of internal courtyards bringing not only light but a sense of 'playfulness' and interest to the project.

"The owners wanted a forever home… a home where it was designed to be slightly understated… that had warmth and lots of light," says Emilio. "And they wanted something that had really interesting connections to what is a substantial and lovely backyard."

Instead of focusing all the glazing on the north and trying to maximise the backyard, the house was extended, with courtyards created on both sides. ▶

KITCHEN Joinery painted Dulux Roland. Timber veneer joinery in American oak. Benchtop in stainless steel and island benchtop in Corian Designer White. Nobili 'Flag' pullout mixer, Reece. 'Chalk' pendant light, Alex Earl. ACP Atelier 'Sedis' bar stools, Stylecraft. 'Ceres' bowl by Debbie Weinmann, Jardan. Audo 'Hana' vase, Designstuff.



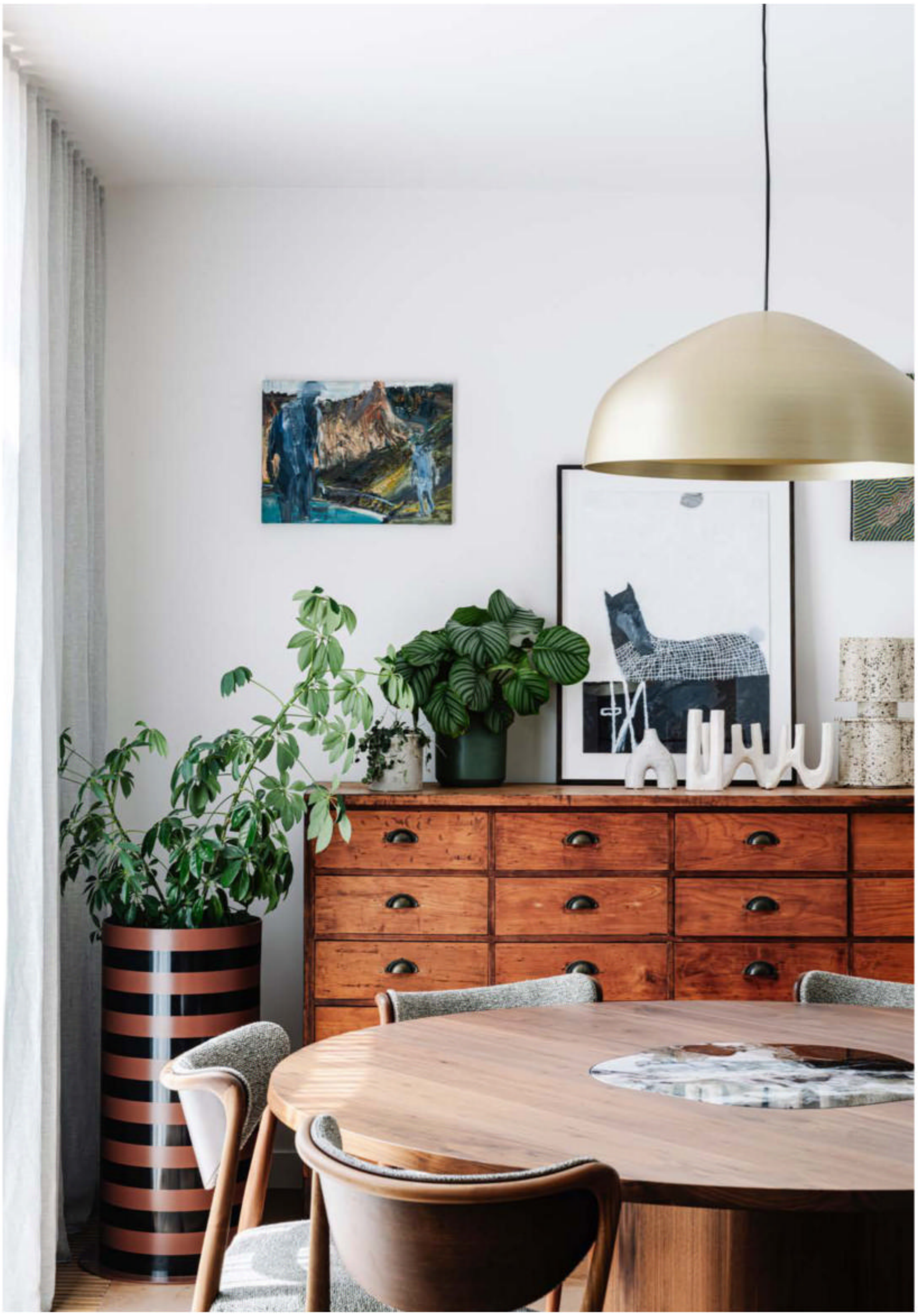
THE PALETTE

Dulux Roland
(kitchen joinery)

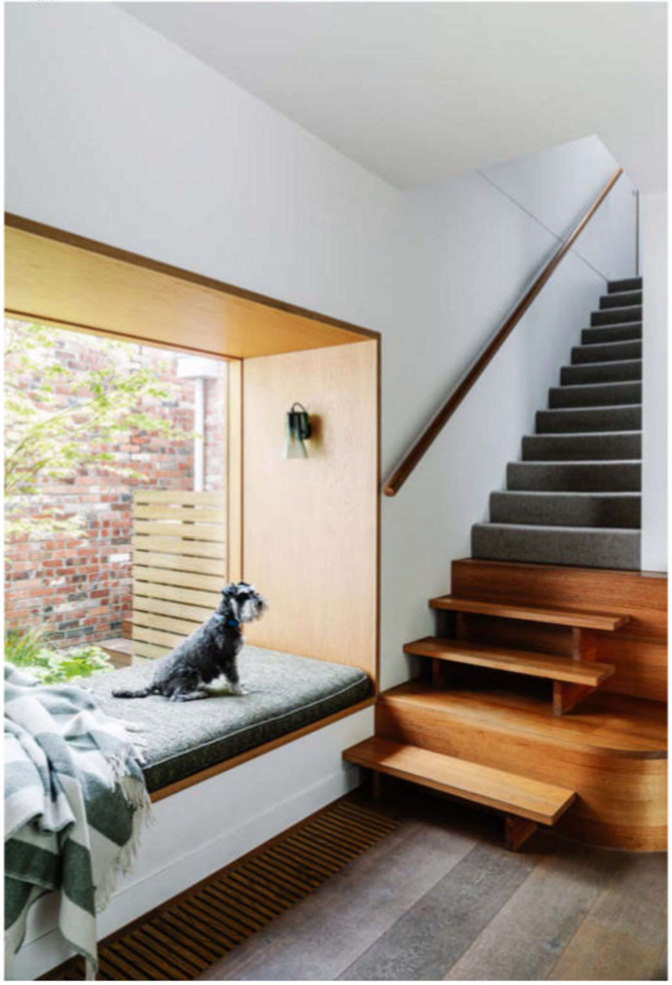
Dulux Natural White
(interior walls)

Colorbond® Surfmist®
(roof)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



DINING American Black Walnut dining table with Verde marble inlay, Daniel Poole. Ritzwell 'Marcel' dining chairs, Stylecraft. Credenza, owners' existing. Artworks by Euan Macleod, Marise Maas and Bronwyn Payne. Curtains in Parisi fabric in Silver, Charles Parsons. 'Ora' pendant light, Ross Gardam. **LIVING** Ceiling in Silvertop ash, Radial Sawn Timbers. 'Valley' sofa, Jardan. 'Kiri' coffee table, Made Studio. Kvadrat 'Lavo' rug, In Good Company. Artwork by Ella Deague. Cushions upholstered in Designs of the Time 'Angona'.



"The courtyards create all these corners, which we then rounded off in some areas, the idea being that each room or area had a connection to the outside," says Emilio.

A bright, spacious kitchen opens to one of the courtyards, a beautiful outdoor space filled with greenery and artistic flourishes. The stylish kitchen area with its light-coloured joinery, stainless steel benchtop and large Corian-topped island, includes the dining room on one side, while another leads through to a living room with a timber-lined ceiling.

Explaining the intention behind the timber-clad ceiling, Emilio says, "The idea there was to give that room warmth. There's two steps down into the room and, as you step down, the hope is that there's a different kind of atmosphere... the glazing in that room is very focused, it doesn't just open up to the backyard, it reveals the backyard very quietly."

Once the build was finished, designer Silvia Roldan of Studio Esar came on board to curate furniture, art and decor. "At our initial meeting, what we saw was absolutely beautiful, a real homage to nature," says Silvia.

"The clients are big plant-loving and art-loving folk and that was very apparent throughout the home. And they also loved natural materials… They love colour so there's a lot of beautiful colour throughout.

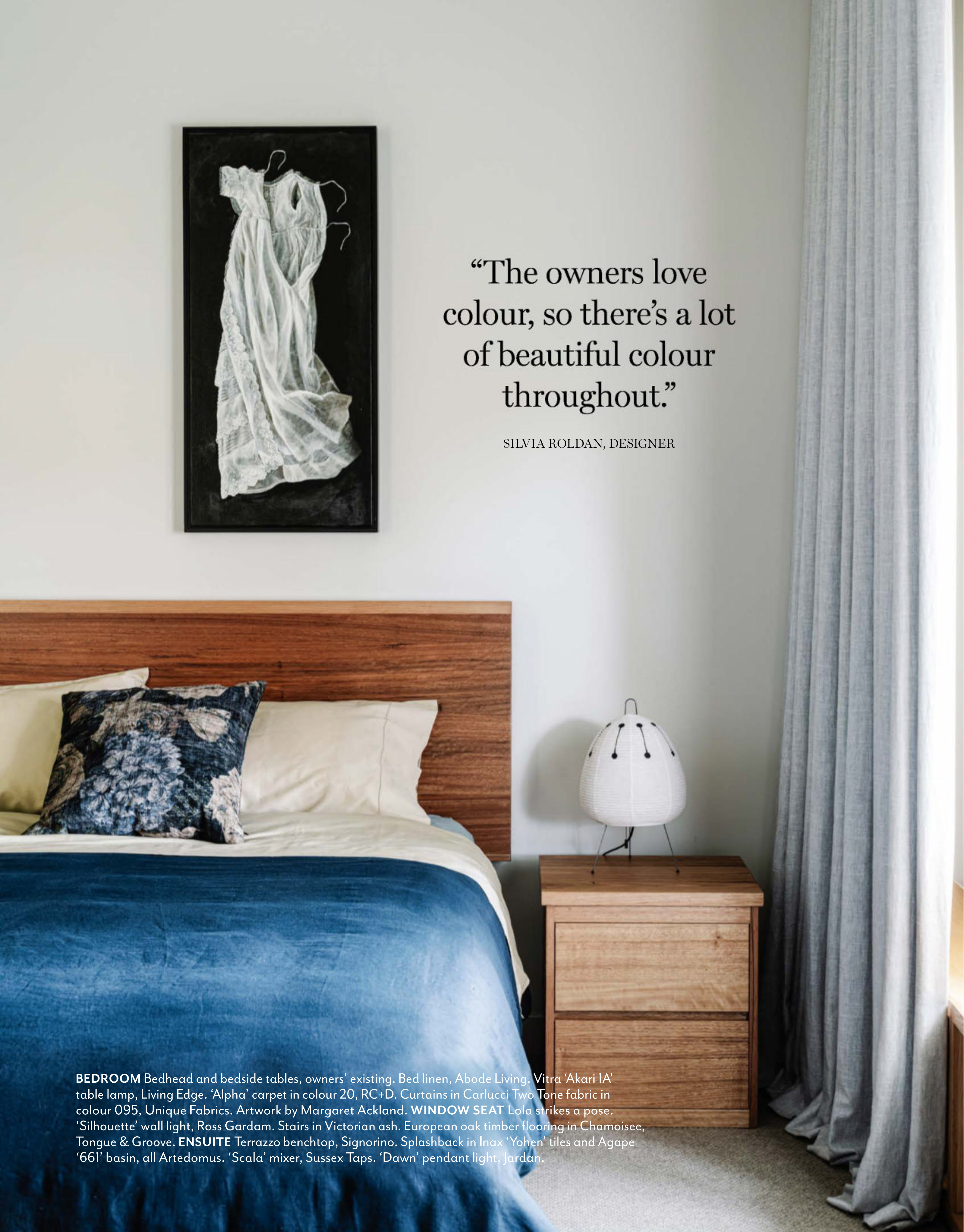
"We are always guided by our clients' preference for what they enjoy, what they love, and what they resonate with," says Silvia. "For them, it was blue and green and that referenced a lot of their existing artwork."

Blue and green colour tones are also highlighted in the selection of sofas, rugs and soft furnishings, with sympathetic shades of lilac also coming into play.

Special heirloom and custom pieces also feature in the home, including a round American black walnut dining table by Daniel Poole with a Verde marble inset, and the beautiful, linear 'Chalk' pendant light by Alex Earl above the kitchen island.

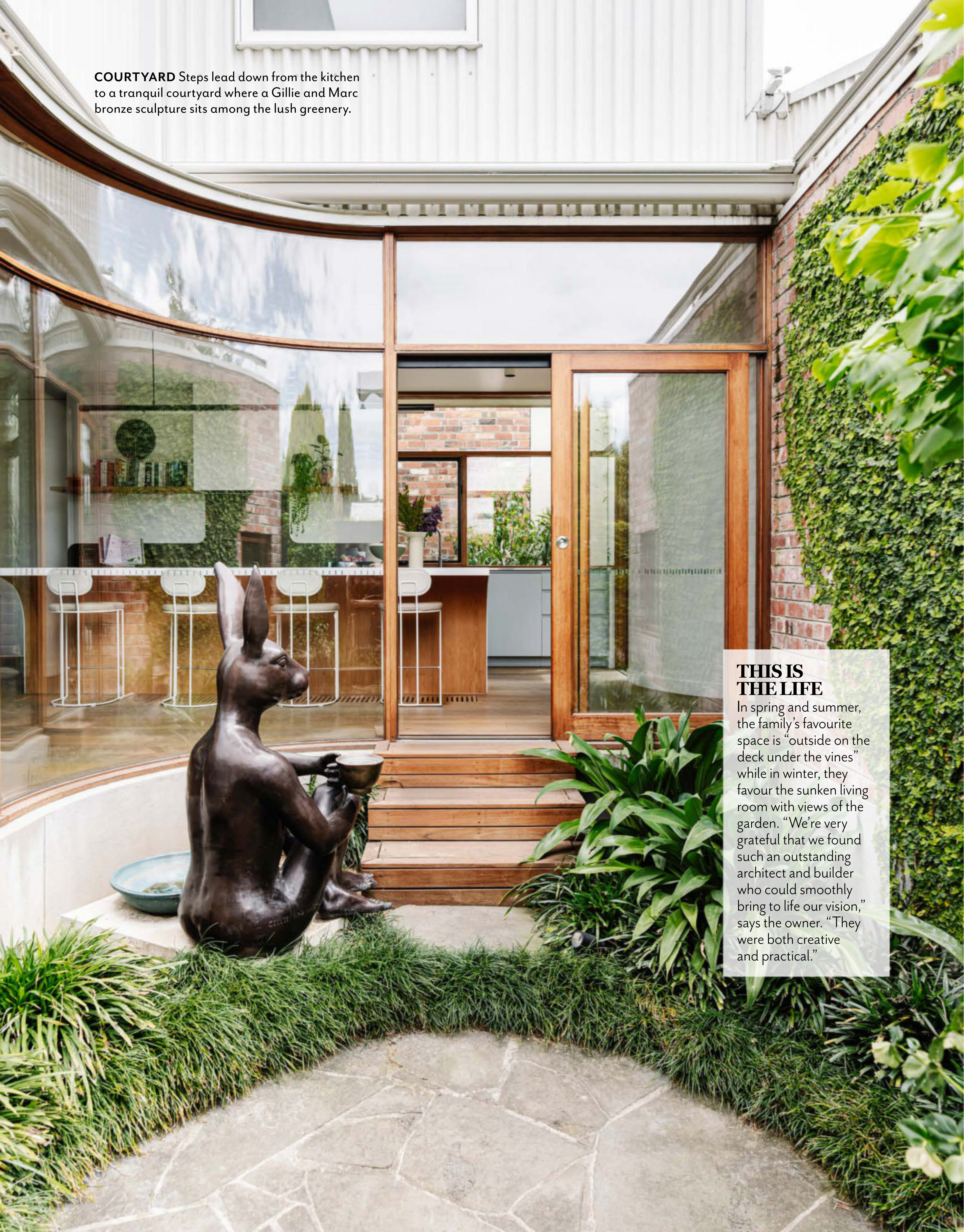
"The clients had some lovely existing pieces, like the wonderful credenza multi-drawer unit you can see in the dining room, and all their art and plants, so we had some good starting points," says Silvia. "Then we curated and added pieces that were thoughtful and considered and hopefully pieces that they'll be able to hand on, that will become future heirlooms for their children." ▶

Nest Architects: *nestarchitects.com.au.*
Studio Esar: *studioesar.com.au.*
Fido Projects: *fidoprojects.com.au.*
Amanda Oliver Gardens:
amandaolivergardens.com.au.



> “The owners love colour, so there’s a lot of beautiful colour throughout.”
>
> SILVIA ROLDAN, DESIGNER

BEDROOM Bedhead and bedside tables, owners’ existing. Bed linen, Abode Living. Vitra ‘Akari 1A’ table lamp, Living Edge. ‘Alpha’ carpet in colour 20, RC+D. Curtains in Carlucci Two Tone fabric in colour 095, Unique Fabrics. Artwork by Margaret Ackland. **WINDOW SEAT** Lola strikes a pose. ‘Silhouette’ wall light, Ross Gardam. Stairs in Victorian ash. European oak timber flooring in Chamoisee, Tongue & Groove. **ENSUITE** Terrazzo benchtop, Signorino. Splashback in Inax ‘Yohen’ tiles and Agape ‘661’ basin, all Artedomus. ‘Scala’ mixer, Sussex Taps. ‘Dawn’ pendant light, Jardan.



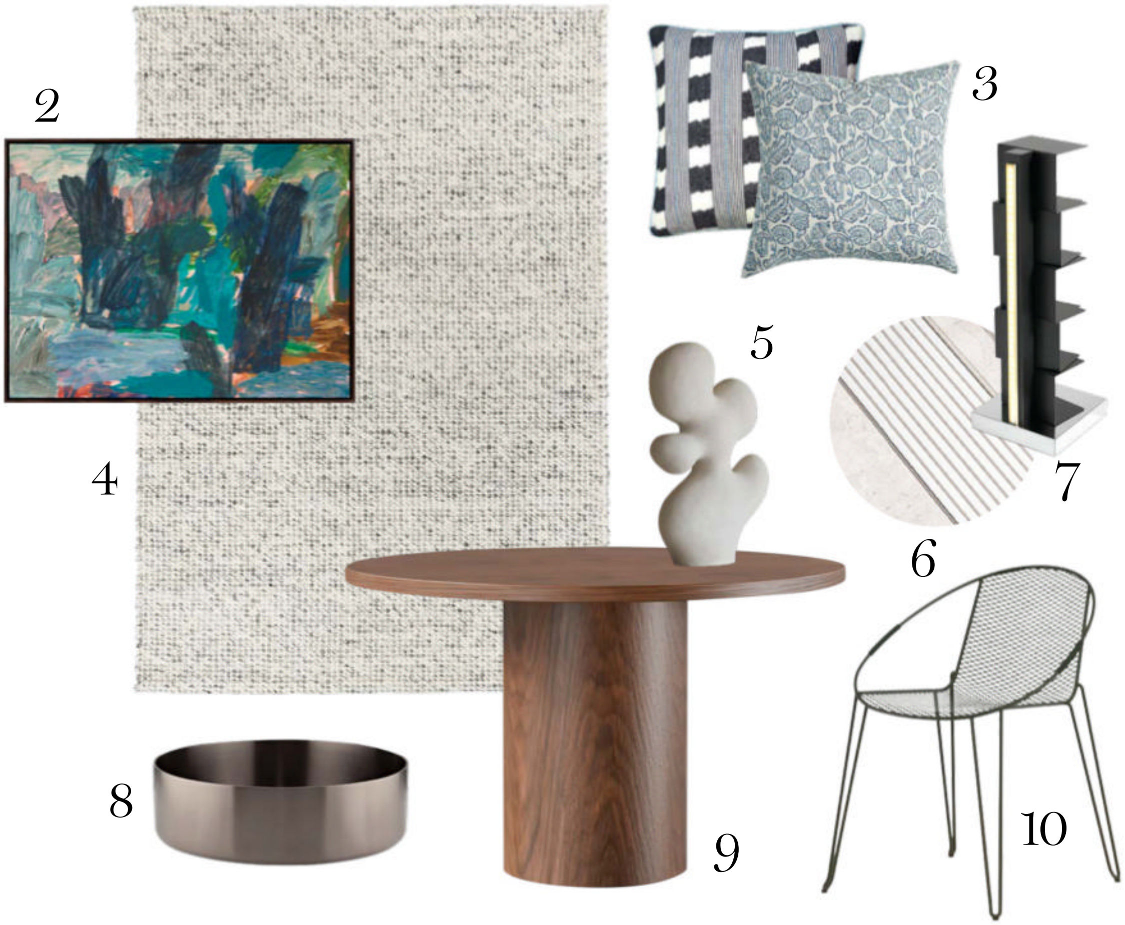
COURTYARD Steps lead down from the kitchen to a tranquil courtyard where a Gillie and Marc bronze sculpture sits among the lush greenery.

THIS IS THE LIFE

In spring and summer, the family's favourite space is "outside on the deck under the vines" while in winter, they favour the sunken living room with views of the garden. "We're very grateful that we found such an outstanding architect and builder who could smoothly bring to life our vision," says the owner. "They were both creative and practical."

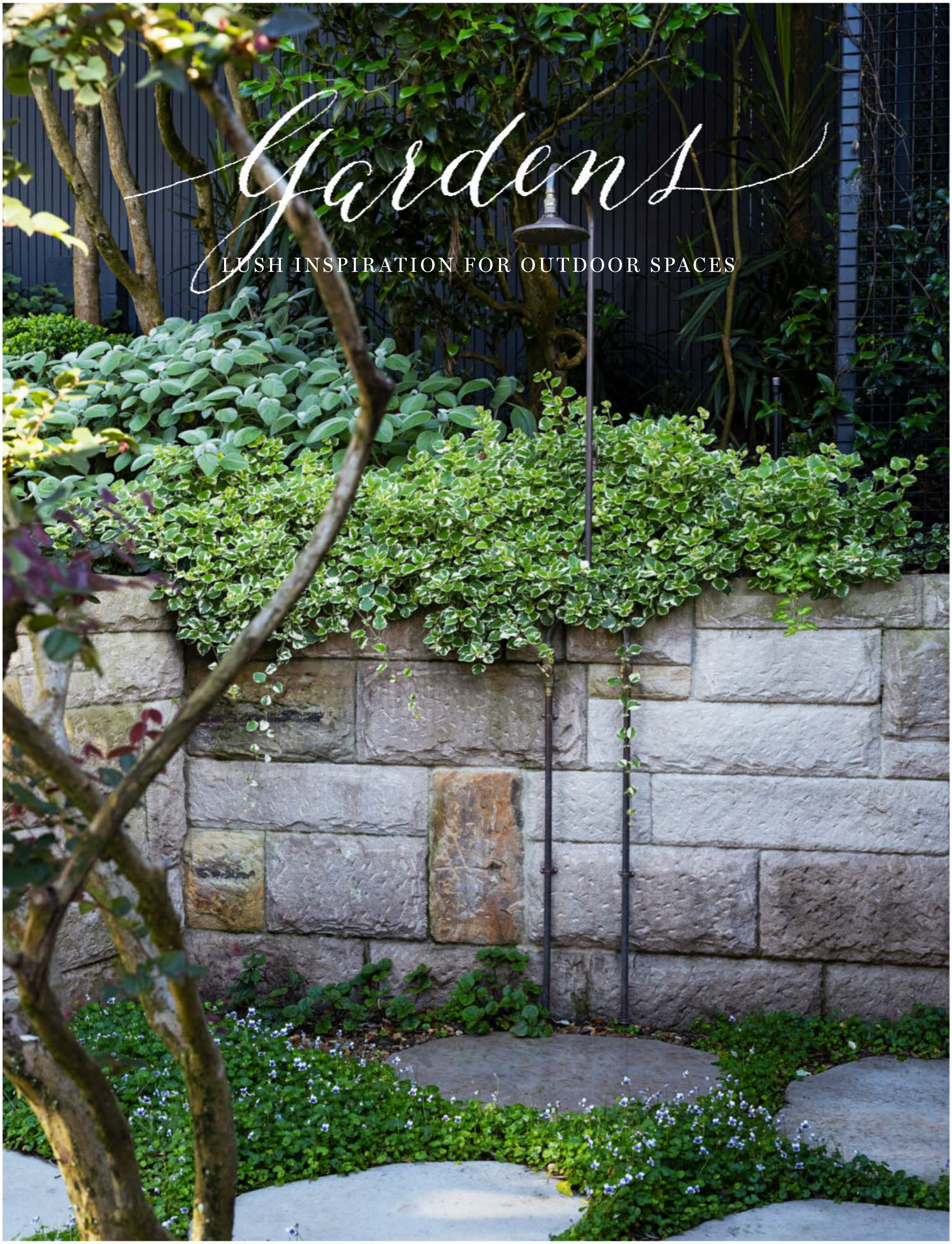
THE SOURCE

Opt for a fresh palette of greys and blues for light-filled interiors, with timber and organic shapes for visual interest.



1 ‘Raggio’ **pendant light**, $680/small, Casa Blanco. 2 *Blue Fire* **artwork** by Inga Dalrymple, $1900, Otomys. 3 Walter G ‘Savoie’ linen **cushion** in Riviera, $160, and ‘Absurd’ **cushion** in Cement/Sky, $172, both No Chintz. 4 ‘Vaasa’ chunky wool **rug** in Grey (320x230cm), $1249, Miss Amara. 5 ‘Arche’ **sculpture**, $600, En Gold. 6 ‘Wave’ grate **drainage system**, POA, Stormtech. 7 ‘Ptolomeo Luce’ **bookcase** in Black Stainless Steel, $2125, Space. 8 ‘Harlow’ round **basin** in Brushed Gunmetal, $749.90, ABI Interiors. 9 Round ‘Gathering’ oak veneer **table** in Brown Wash, POA, Nomi. 10 ‘Volley’ **chair**, $1029, Tait. **H&G**

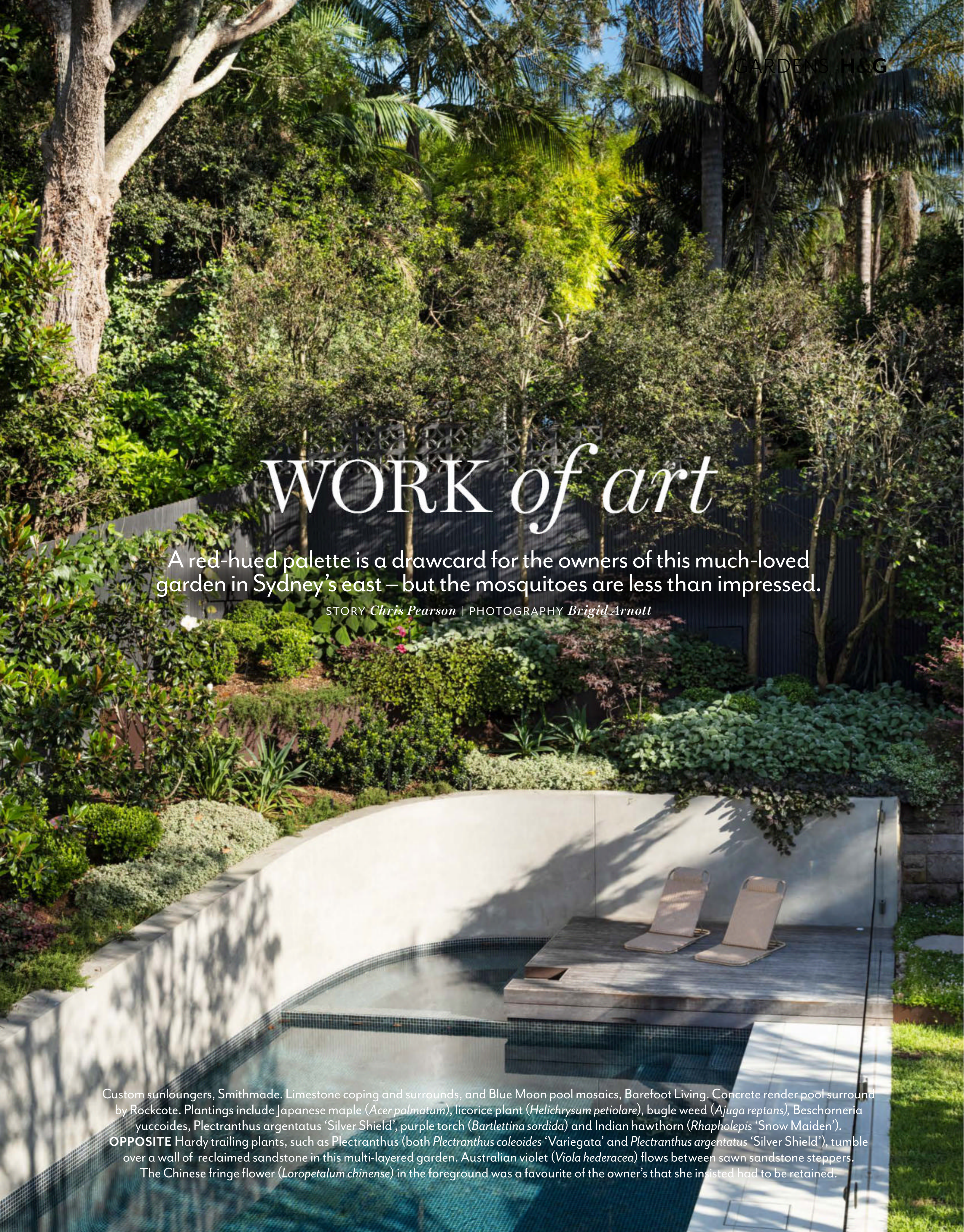
Produced by Marissa Foye.



Gardens

LUSH INSPIRATION FOR OUTDOOR SPACES

Photograph by Brigid Arnott. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.



WORK *of art*

A red-hued palette is a drawcard for the owners of this much-loved garden in Sydney's east – but the mosquitoes are less than impressed.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Brigid Arnott*

Custom sunloungers, Smithmade. Limestone coping and surrounds, and Blue Moon pool mosaics, Barefoot Living. Concrete render pool surround by Rockcote. Plantings include Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*), licorice plant (*Helichrysum petiolare*), bugle weed (*Ajuga reptans),* Beschorneria yuccoides, Plectranthus argentatus 'Silver Shield', purple torch (*Bartlettina sordida*) and Indian hawthorn (*Rhapholepis* 'Snow Maiden'). **OPPOSITE** Hardy trailing plants, such as Plectranthus (both *Plectranthus coleoides* 'Variegata' and *Plectranthus argentatus* 'Silver Shield'), tumble over a wall of reclaimed sandstone in this multi-layered garden. Australian violet (*Viola hederacea*) flows between sawn sandstone steppers. The Chinese fringe flower (*Loropetalum chinense*) in the foreground was a favourite of the owner's that she insisted had to be retained.

This lush, multi-layered garden in Sydney's east is a peaceful paradise for its lucky owners. With a pool and sauna fringed in colourful foliage, it's their everyday go-to, either for entertaining, play or simply unwinding. But mozzies no longer share the buzz, thanks to its landscape designer, Luke Baldwin of Formed Gardens.

"I was sceptical when Luke told me that was achievable, but, after a summer with lots of rain, I can say he was right," says owner David, who lives here with wife Nicole and their two children, a son, 13, and daughter, 11.

When the couple bought the home in 2016, the formal rear garden, with a lawn enclosed in buxus hedging and tiered plantings including magnolias and camellias, was undoubtedly picturesque. "It was pretty to look at," says Nicole, "but we never used it." Densely planted and with poor drainage, it was a haven for mosquitoes. And while there was a terrace beside the house, the family rarely ventured beyond that. "It felt dark, overgrown and uninviting, and it sloped steeply from left to right," adds Luke.

In their brief in 2022, the couple asked him to retain its virtues, including the luxuriant planting, but to add a pool and to boost its entertaining credentials with an outdoor kitchen beside the house.

"We wanted a more contemporary take on English style, combining a relaxed feel with traditional structured elements," says David. "And a pool where we could interact, a place to entertain just off the house, and a usable lawn for two kids and our dog," adds Nicole. The couple were also keen to retain mature magnolias and crepe myrtles, together with two favourites, hydrangeas and a *Loropetalum*, or Chinese fringe flower, with its striking burgundy foliage. Colour throughout the year also topped the wishlist – Nicole adores purple and its myriad hues in foliage and flowers.

Luke's immediate challenge was the steep topography, which he resolved by introducing terracing, with the pool a key consideration. "To resolve the sloping terrain, the swimming pool and its integrated concrete retaining wall cut through the site. We effectively used the pool as a retaining wall," says Luke. As a result, the garden is split into two sections – a raised planter encases the pool and extends to the rear boundary, while lawn and garden enclose the lower spaces abutting the pool.

"The pool is the centrepiece that connects the house and lower terraces, including outdoor entertaining areas and kitchen, lawn, pool deck and spa," he says.

Concrete hardscaping, with a soft curve on one corner, encases the pool. "Pared back and tonal, the materiality of limestone paving, sandstone walling, concrete render and spotted-gum decking is subtle and brings a softness to the overall aesthetic," says Luke.

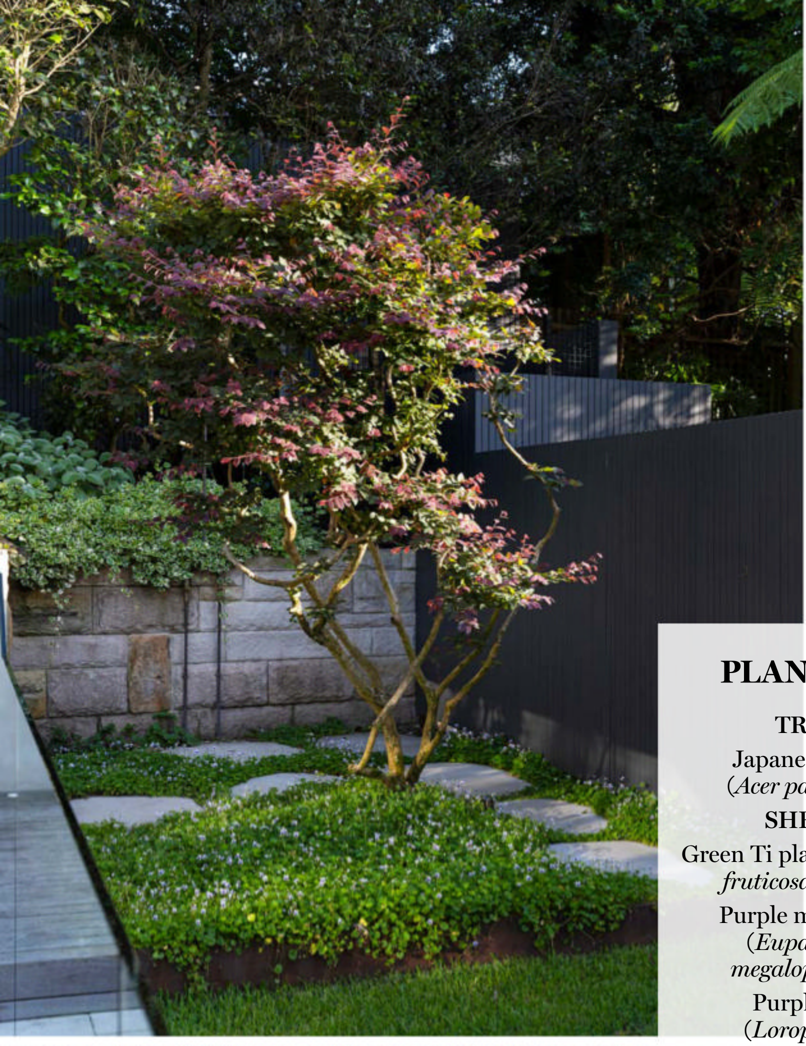
> "THERE'S SO MUCH GREEN, PURPLE AND RED THAT IT LOOKS LIKE A PAINTING."
>
> *The owner*

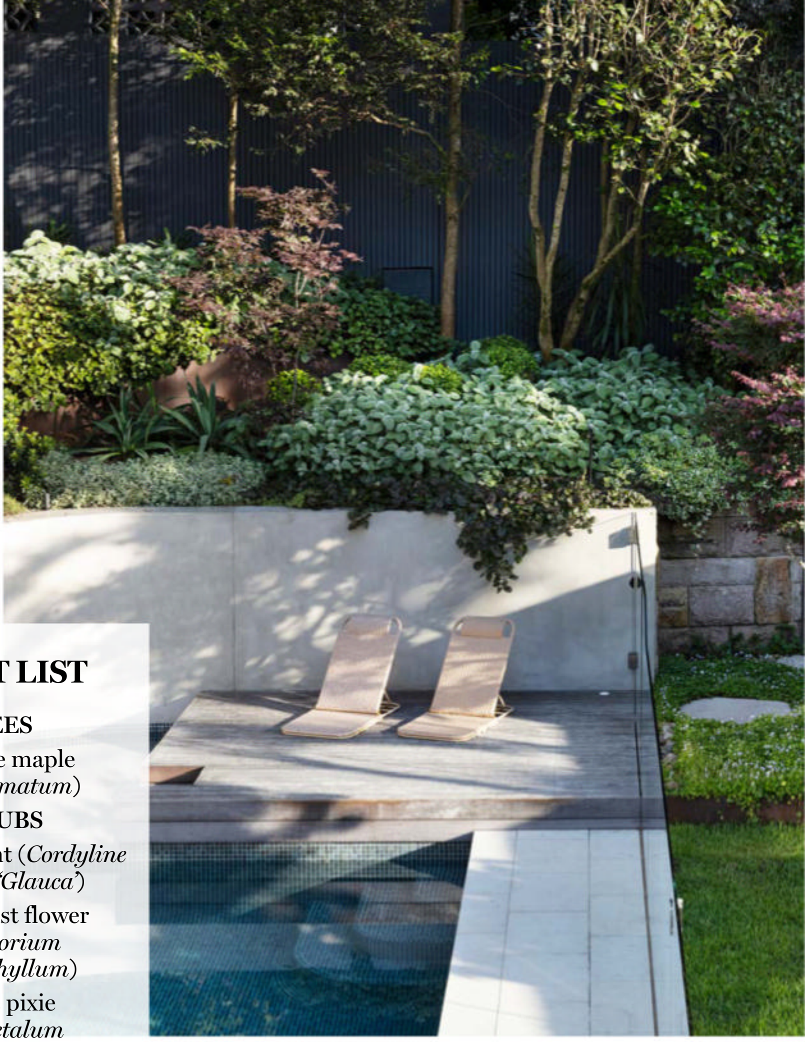
And the massed planting of the old garden remains in spirit, but, having been thinned out, this new iteration lets in more light and it breathes – both anathema to mozzies. "The planting is sophisticated and structured, but also a bit looser, allowing perennials like *Plectranthus* species, ajuga and trailing rosemary to spread naturally and spill over walls," he says. When in flower they offer seasonal colour, especially in the purple palette so prized by Nicole. That's also reflected in omnipresent red foliage, such as in the Chinese fringe flower, reprised with dwarf purple pixie peppered throughout. Lest they become overpowering, the ruby reds are toned down by green massed foliage. "The palette, which blends so well, is grounding and soothing. The planting is the hero here," says Luke. And, in the spirit of recycling, much of the green is generated by the original buxus hedging, smartly rebirthed as clipped balls throughout. Meanwhile, mosquito bush (*Plectranthus* 'Mozzie Hanging Basket') also helps keep pesky mozzies at bay.

"There's so much green, purple and red that it looks like a painting," says David. "And the concrete and limestone really make the colours pop." But this is so much more than a trophy garden. "Our entertaining has gone through the roof," he adds. "Before, space was limited, but now with eating and meal prep areas, the swimming pool and the lawn, it's as if we have all these new rooms. And it's magical sitting outside at sunset, when dappled light hits the pool." **H&G**

***Formed Gardens:** formedgardens.com.au.*

Clockwise from top left A backdrop of existing lilly pillies (*Syzgium smithii*) and a Chinese fringe flower (*Loropetalum chinense*), a favourite of the client and retained here as a hero of the new garden. Speckled spur flower (*Plectranthus nico*) and buxus balls (*Buxus japonica*), the latter cleverly salvaged from previous hedging. Custom sunloungers, Smithmade. Climbers and trailing plants are used to great effect, such as this creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*) and trailing rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Prostratus') cascading over the sandstone wall. An eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Forest pansy') is typical of the ruby tones that mingle with green foliage. An hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) (another owner favourite) sits in an Atlantis Egg pot from Four Seasons Nursery. Limestone paving, Barefoot Living. Sandstone rock face with sawn capping, Australian Sandstone Merchants.





PLANT LIST

TREES

Japanese maple
(*Acer palmatum*)

SHRUBS

Green Ti plant (*Cordyline fruticosa 'Glauca'*)

Purple mist flower
(*Eupatorium megalophyllum*)

Purple pixie
(*Loropetalum* 'Purple Pixie')

CLIMBERS

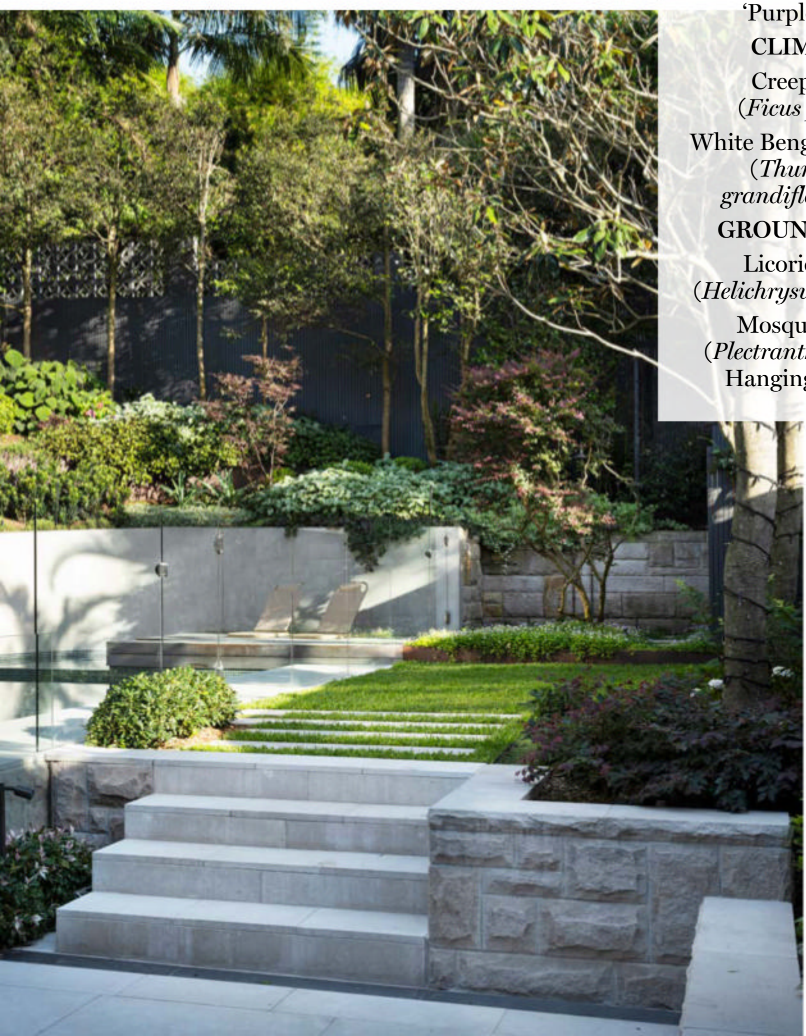
Creeping fig
(*Ficus pumila*)

White Bengal clock vine
(*Thunbergia grandiflora* 'Alba')

GROUNDCOVER

Licorice plant
(*Helichrysum petiolare*)

Mosquito bush
(*Plectranthus* 'Mozzie Hanging Basket')



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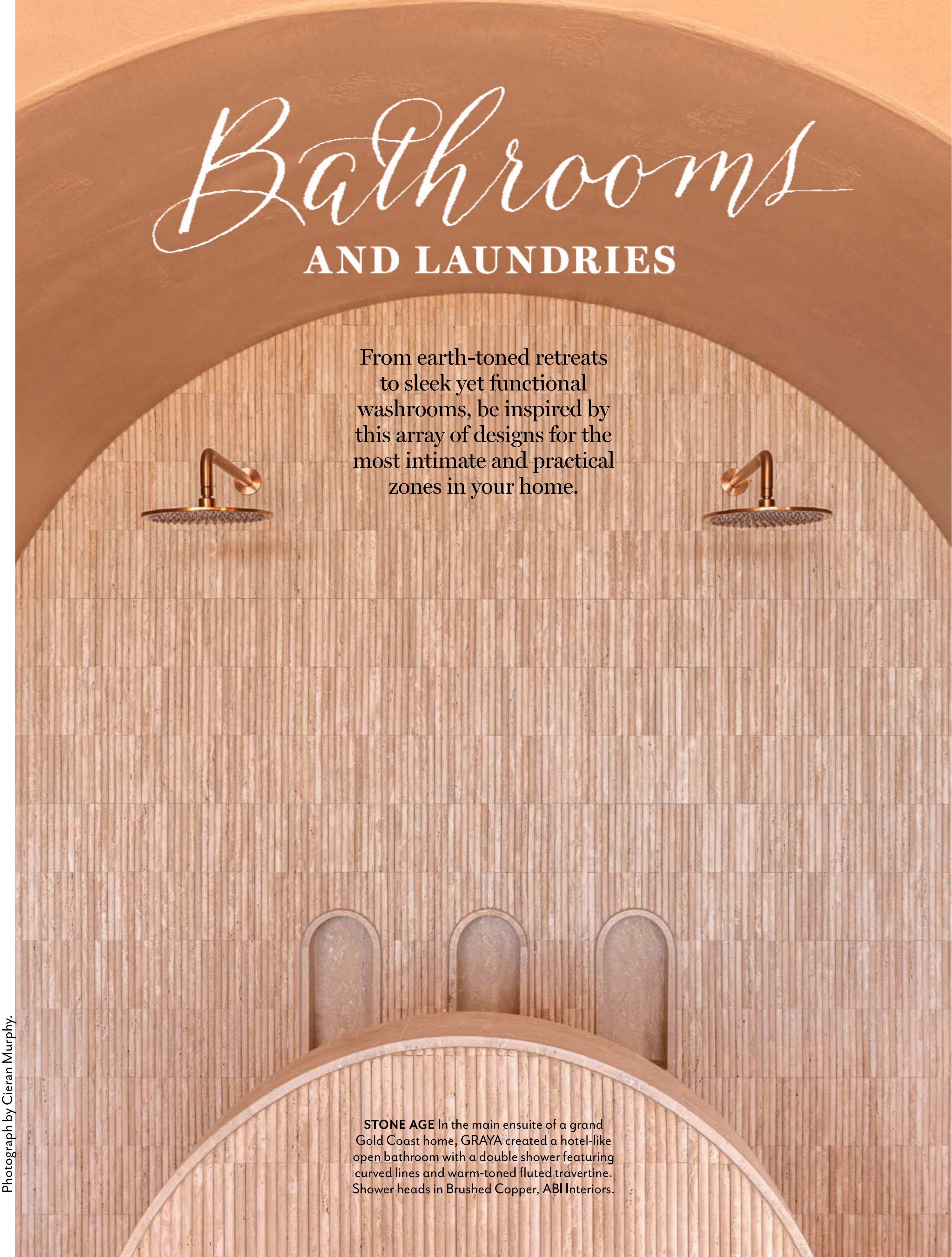


Bathrooms AND LAUNDRIES

From earth-toned retreats to sleek yet functional washrooms, be inspired by this array of designs for the most intimate and practical zones in your home.

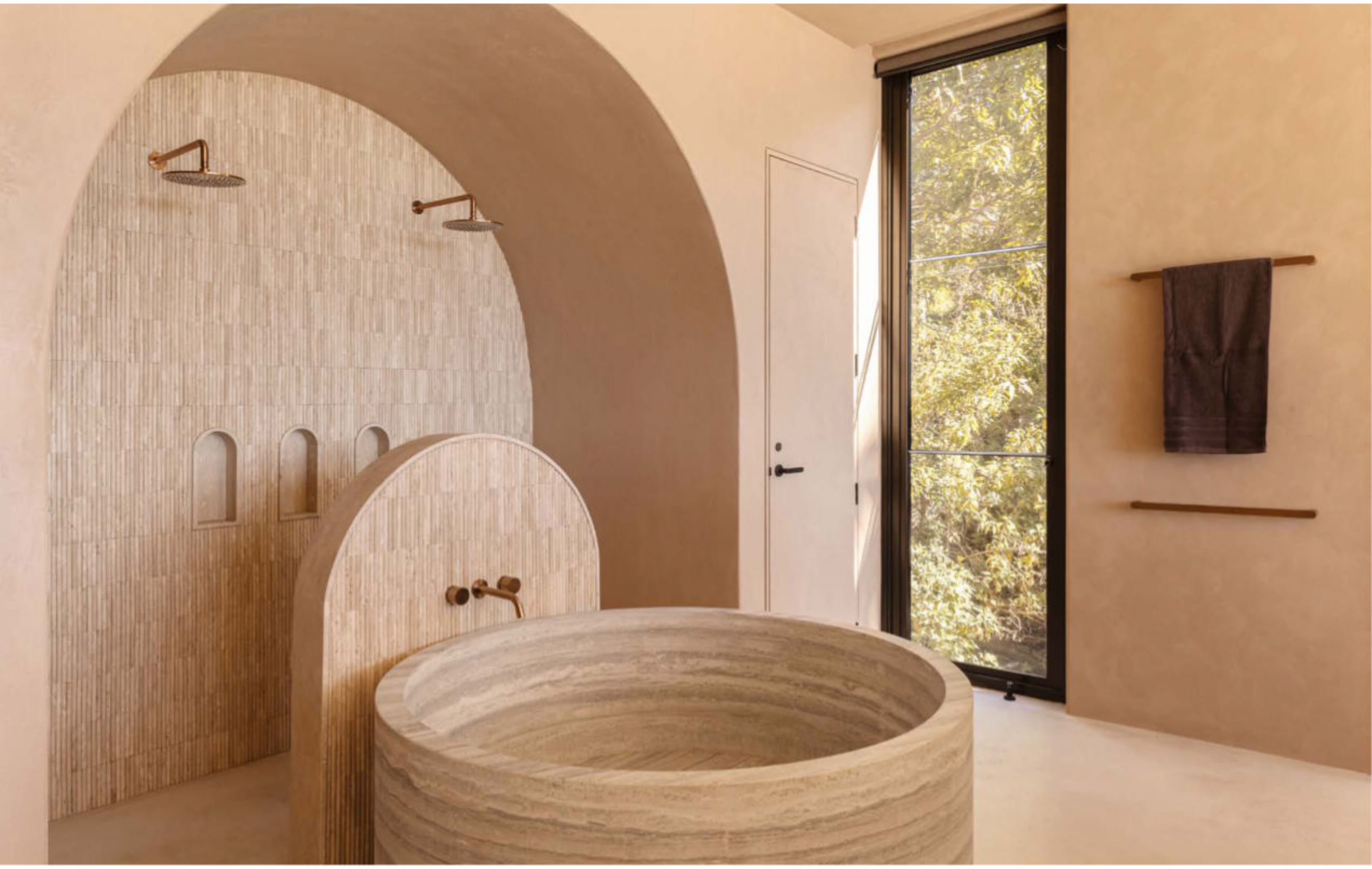
STONE AGE In the main ensuite of a grand Gold Coast home, GRAYA created a hotel-like open bathroom with a double shower featuring curved lines and warm-toned fluted travertine. Shower heads in Brushed Copper, ABI Interiors.

Photograph by Cieran Murphy.

Golden *glow*

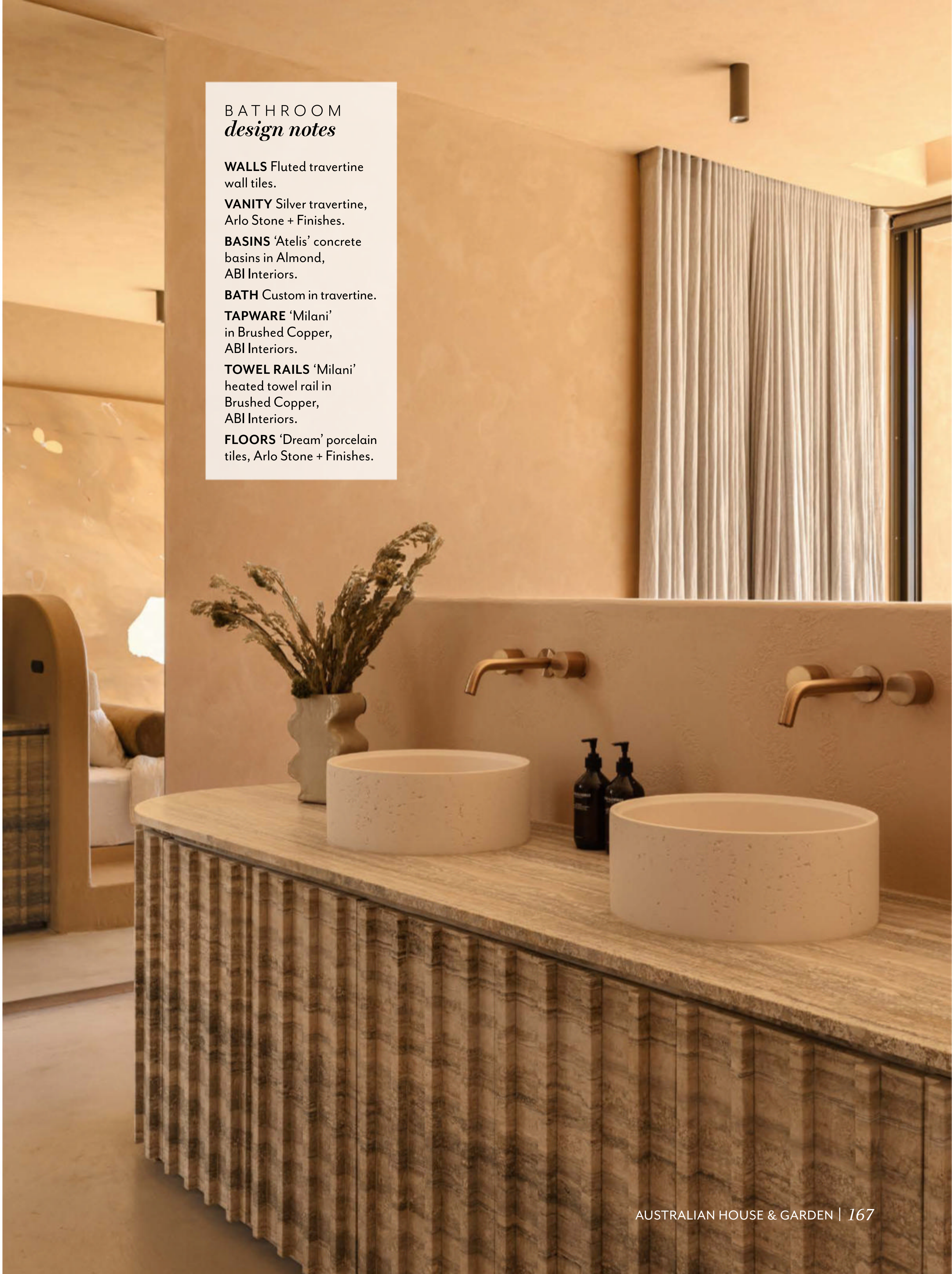
EXUDING MEDITERRANEAN CHARM AND REFINED LUXURY, THIS ELEGANT ESCAPE BALANCES FORM AND FUNCTION EFFORTLESSLY.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Cieran Murphy*



An awe-inspiring fusion of contemporary Australian design and Moroccan influences, this ensuite is the ultimate sanctuary, with rich tones of natural stone and soft curves. "We designed this residence as a calming, coastal getaway, so we chose a coastal Moroccan theme," says Rob Gray, director of GRAYA, the construction firm that built the Gold Coast four-storey residence, including this stunning ensuite. High-quality fixtures from ABI Interiors beautifully complement the natural textures and neutral tones.

ABI Interiors: abiinteriors.com.au. GRAYA: graya.com.au.



BATHROOM *design notes*

WALLS Fluted travertine wall tiles.

VANITY Silver travertine, Arlo Stone + Finishes.

BASINS 'Atelis' concrete basins in Almond, ABI Interiors.

BATH Custom in travertine.

TAPWARE 'Milani' in Brushed Copper, ABI Interiors.

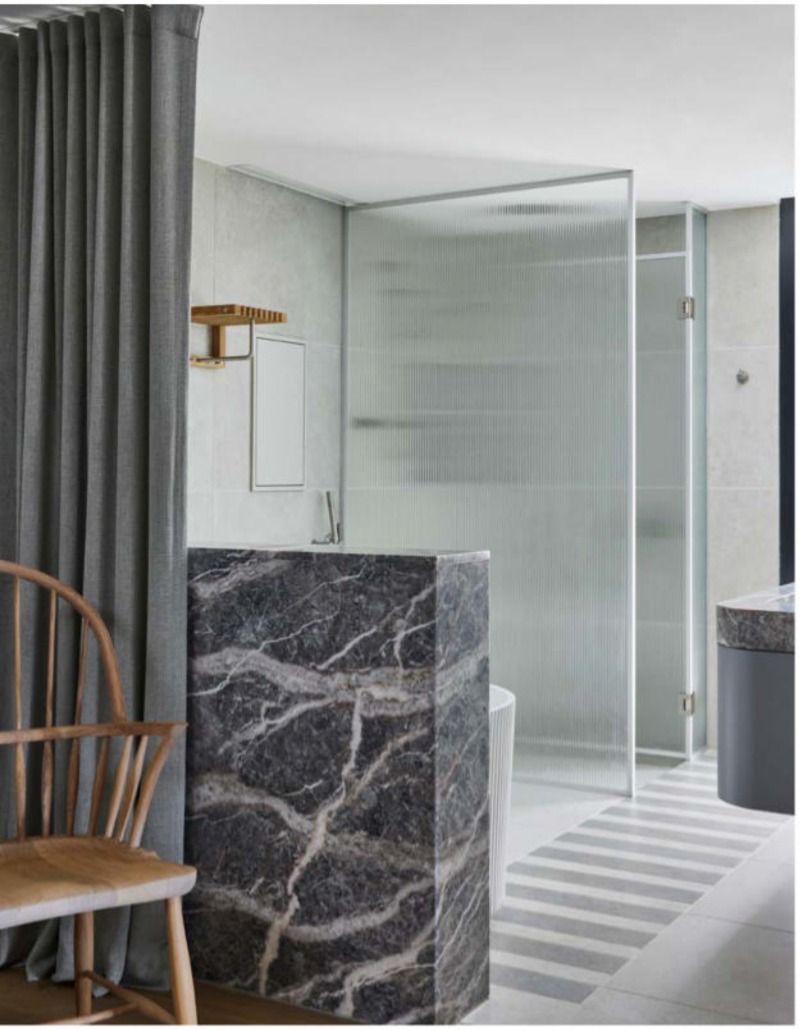
TOWEL RAILS 'Milani' heated towel rail in Brushed Copper, ABI Interiors.

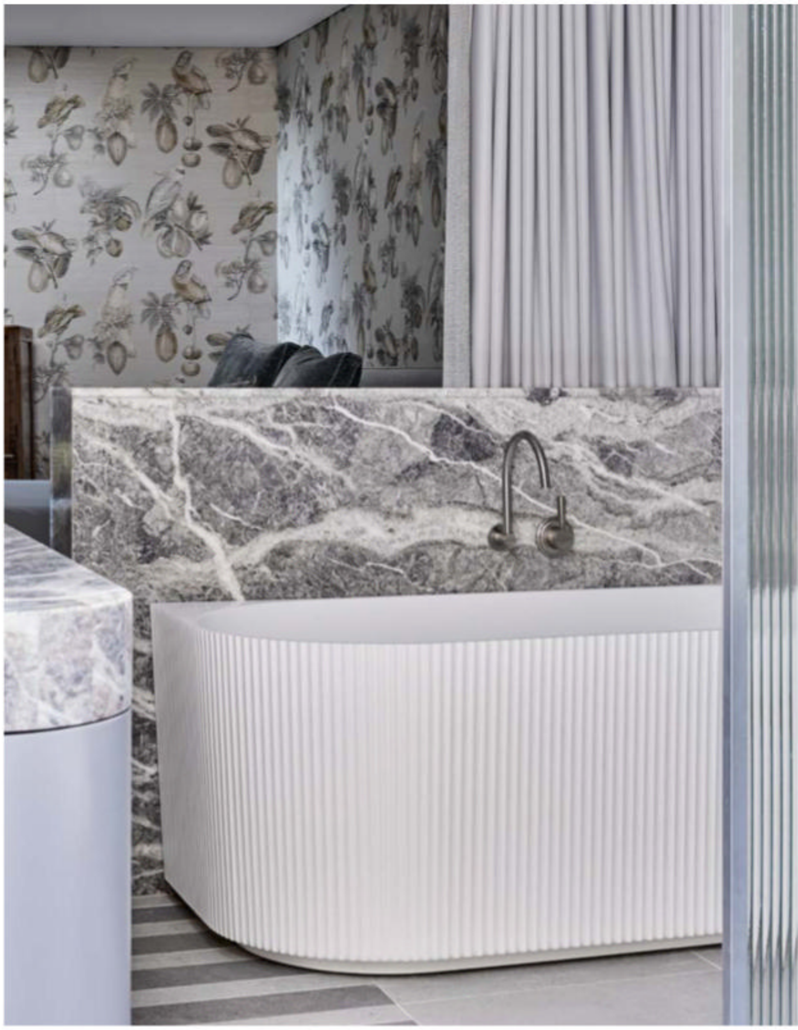
FLOORS 'Dream' porcelain tiles, Arlo Stone + Finishes.

Easy *harmony*

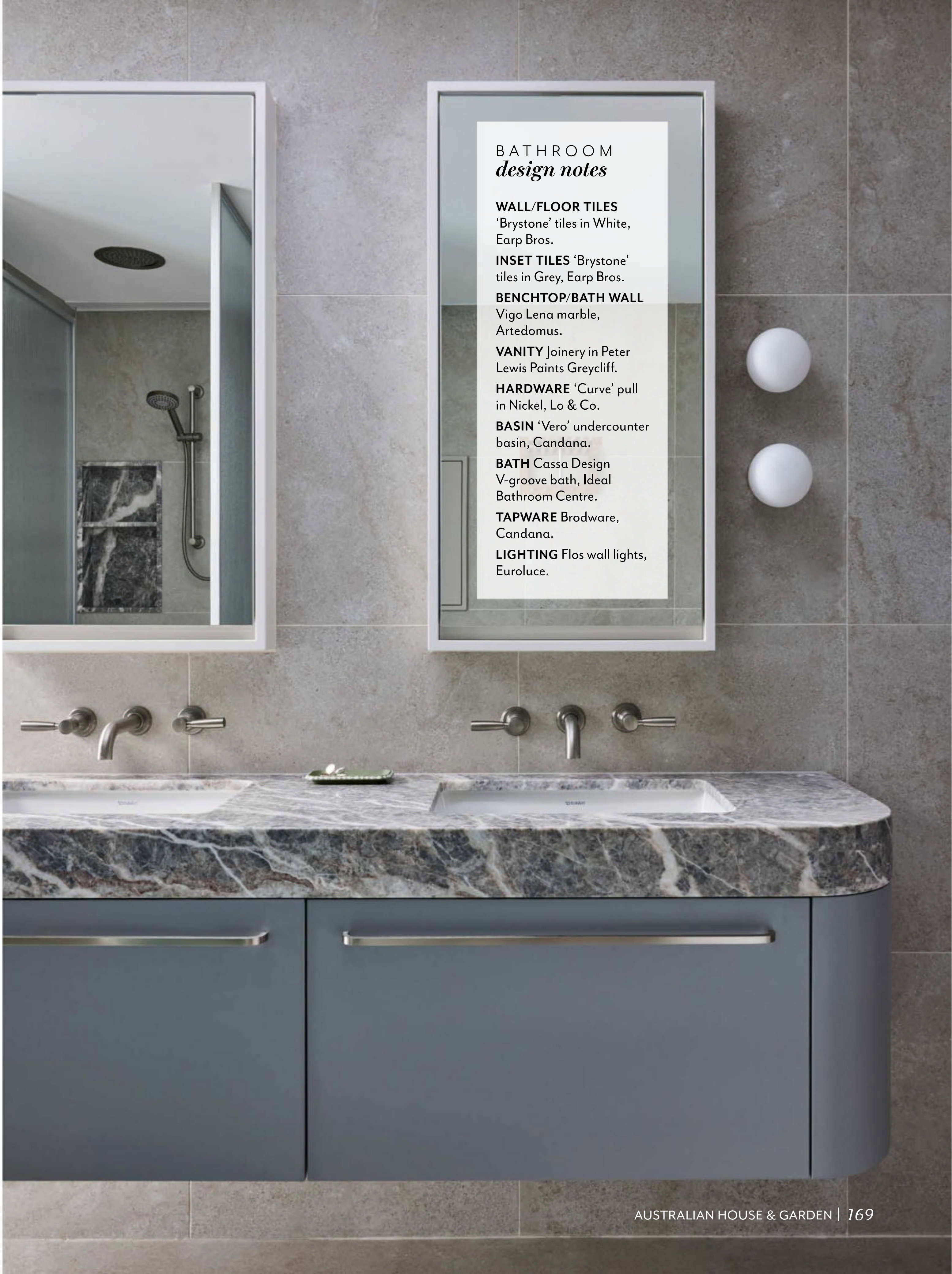
ELEGANT MOTIFS AND AMPLE LIGHT MAKE THIS BATHROOM AN UNEXPECTED YET BEAUTIFUL ADDITION TO THE PRIMARY SUITE.

STORY *Rhiannon Lidbury* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Pablo Veiga*





Separated from the main bedroom by a simple curtain, this ensuite goes far beyond practicality. “Our client, an avid blues fan, wanted a feminine home with a sense of mystique and her treasured artefacts were to be incorporated and displayed throughout,” says interior designer Lauren Ryan of design studio Anna.Carin. The materials bring cohesion to the room, with Vigo Lena natural stone on the dividing wall and benchtop, and reeded glass incorporated in the bath and shower screen. The ensuite also connects the main bedroom to a side terrace that houses an infrared sauna.
Anna.Carin: annacarindesign.com.au.



BATHROOM *design notes*

WALL/FLOOR TILES 'Brystone' tiles in White, Earp Bros.

INSET TILES 'Brystone' tiles in Grey, Earp Bros.

BENCHTOP/BATH WALL Vigo Lena marble, Artedomus.

VANITY Joinery in Peter Lewis Paints Greycliff.

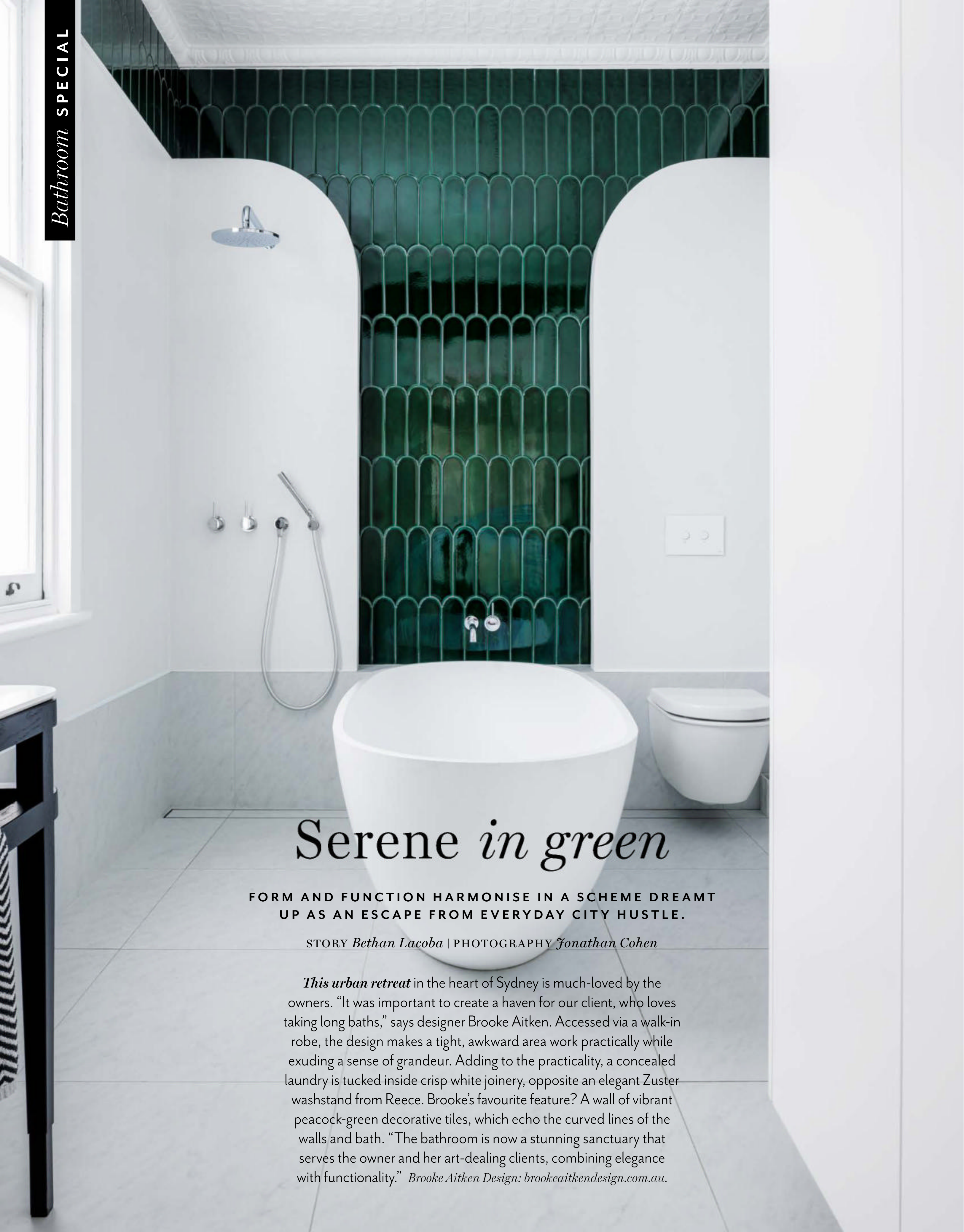
HARDWARE 'Curve' pull in Nickel, Lo & Co.

BASIN 'Vero' undercounter basin, Candana.

BATH Cassa Design V-groove bath, Ideal Bathroom Centre.

TAPWARE Brodware, Candana.

LIGHTING Flos wall lights, Euroluce.



Serene *in green*

FORM AND FUNCTION HARMONISE IN A SCHEME DREAMT UP AS AN ESCAPE FROM EVERYDAY CITY HUSTLE.

STORY *Bethan Lacoba* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Jonathan Cohen*

This urban retreat in the heart of Sydney is much-loved by the owners. “It was important to create a haven for our client, who loves taking long baths,” says designer Brooke Aitken. Accessed via a walk-in robe, the design makes a tight, awkward area work practically while exuding a sense of grandeur. Adding to the practicality, a concealed laundry is tucked inside crisp white joinery, opposite an elegant Zuster washstand from Reece. Brooke’s favourite feature? A wall of vibrant peacock-green decorative tiles, which echo the curved lines of the walls and bath. “The bathroom is now a stunning sanctuary that serves the owner and her art-dealing clients, combining elegance with functionality.” *Brooke Aitken Design: brookeaitkendesign.com.au.*

BATHROOM
design notes

WALLS Microcement to match Dulux Vivid White, Chic Coatings. 'Peacock' tiles in Green, Prosurface.

VANITY Zuster 'ISSY Z1 Ballerina' vanity, Reece.

BENCHTOP Glacier White, Corian.

TAPWARE Basin mixer, Clark. Brodware 'City Stik' shower and bath tapware in Chrome, Candana.

MIRROR 'Halo' arch, Temple & Webster.

WC Duravit 'Darling New' wall-mounted WC, Candana.

FLOORS 'Hudson' Carrara-look porcelain tiles, Design Tiles.

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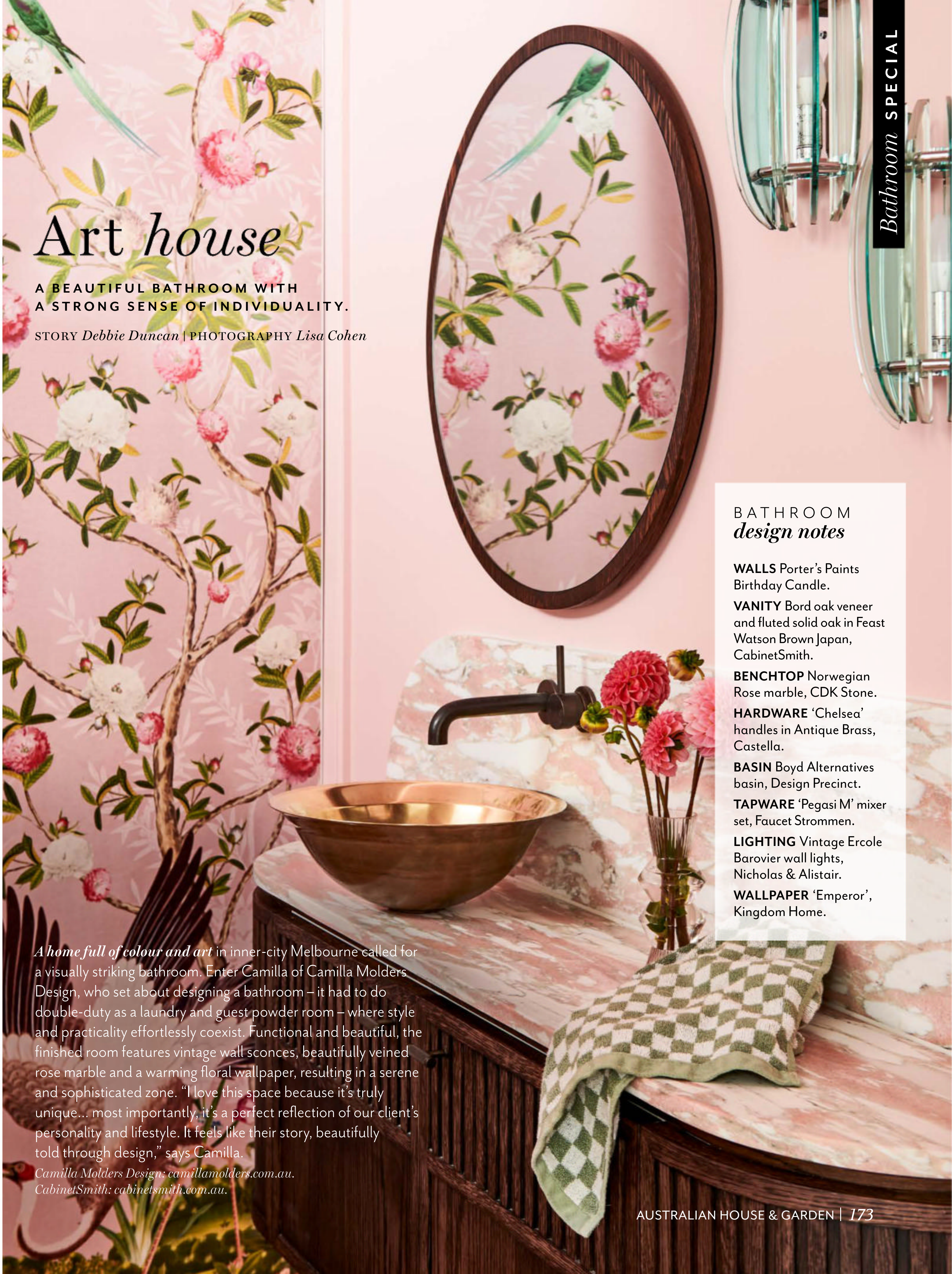


Art *house*

A BEAUTIFUL BATHROOM WITH A STRONG SENSE OF INDIVIDUALITY.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Lisa Cohen*

A home full of colour and art in inner-city Melbourne called for a visually striking bathroom. Enter Camilla of Camilla Molders Design, who set about designing a bathroom – it had to do double-duty as a laundry and guest powder room – where style and practicality effortlessly coexist. Functional and beautiful, the finished room features vintage wall sconces, beautifully veined rose marble and a warming floral wallpaper, resulting in a serene and sophisticated zone. "I love this space because it's truly unique... most importantly, it's a perfect reflection of our client's personality and lifestyle. It feels like their story, beautifully told through design," says Camilla.

Camilla Molders Design: camillamolders.com.au.
CabinetSmith: cabinetsmith.com.au.

BATHROOM *design notes*

WALLS Porter's Paints Birthday Candle.

VANITY Bord oak veneer and fluted solid oak in Feast Watson Brown Japan, CabinetSmith.

BENCHTOP Norwegian Rose marble, CDK Stone.

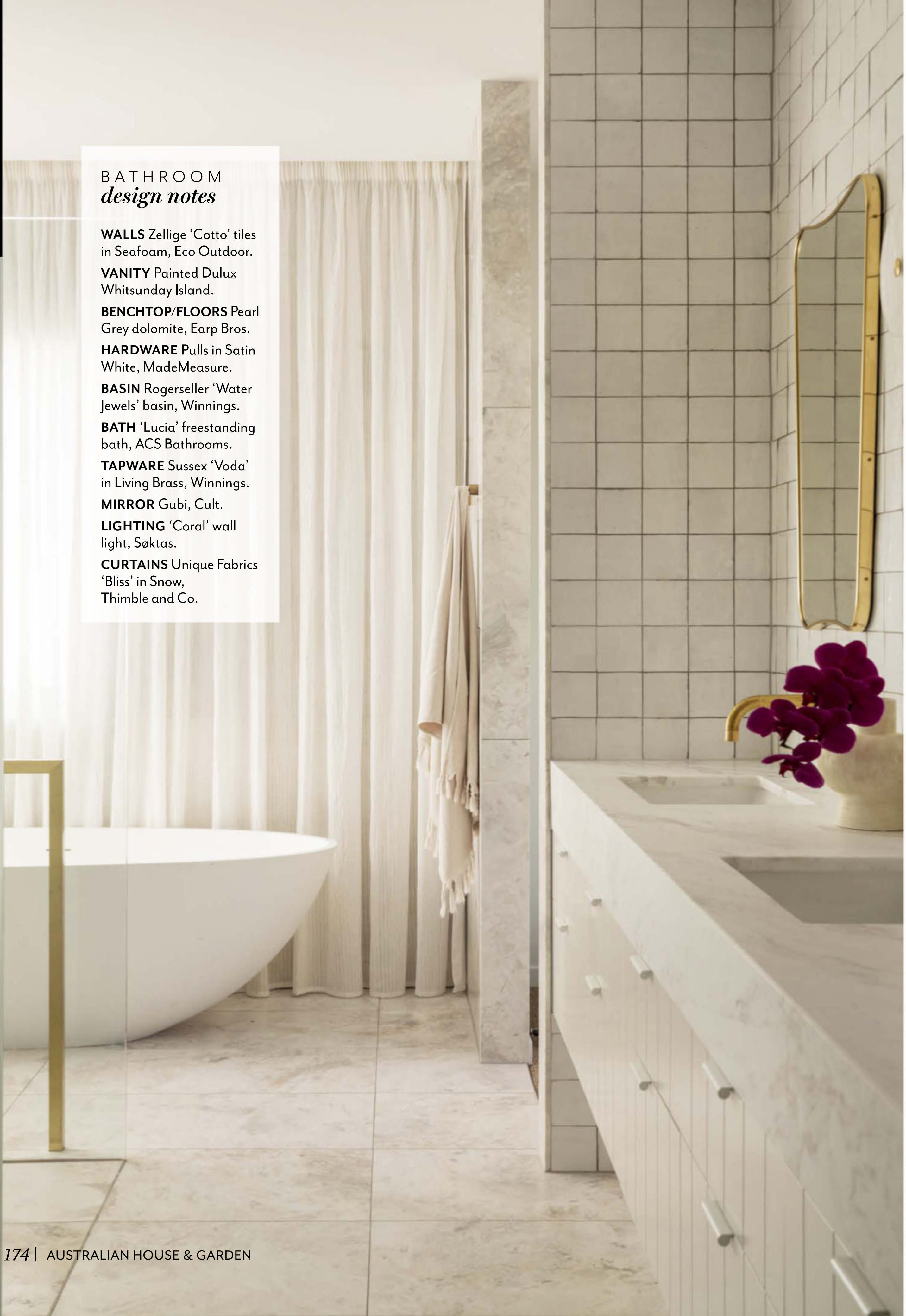
HARDWARE 'Chelsea' handles in Antique Brass, Castella.

BASIN Boyd Alternatives basin, Design Precinct.

TAPWARE 'Pegasi M' mixer set, Faucet Strommen.

LIGHTING Vintage Ercole Barovier wall lights, Nicholas & Alistair.

WALLPAPER 'Emperor', Kingdom Home.



BATHROOM
design notes

WALLS Zellige 'Cotto' tiles in Seafoam, Eco Outdoor.

VANITY Painted Dulux Whitsunday Island.

BENCHTOP/FLOORS Pearl Grey dolomite, Earp Bros.

HARDWARE Pulls in Satin White, MadeMeasure.

BASIN Rogerseller 'Water Jewels' basin, Winnings.

BATH 'Lucia' freestanding bath, ACS Bathrooms.

TAPWARE Sussex 'Voda' in Living Brass, Winnings.

MIRROR Gubi, Cult.

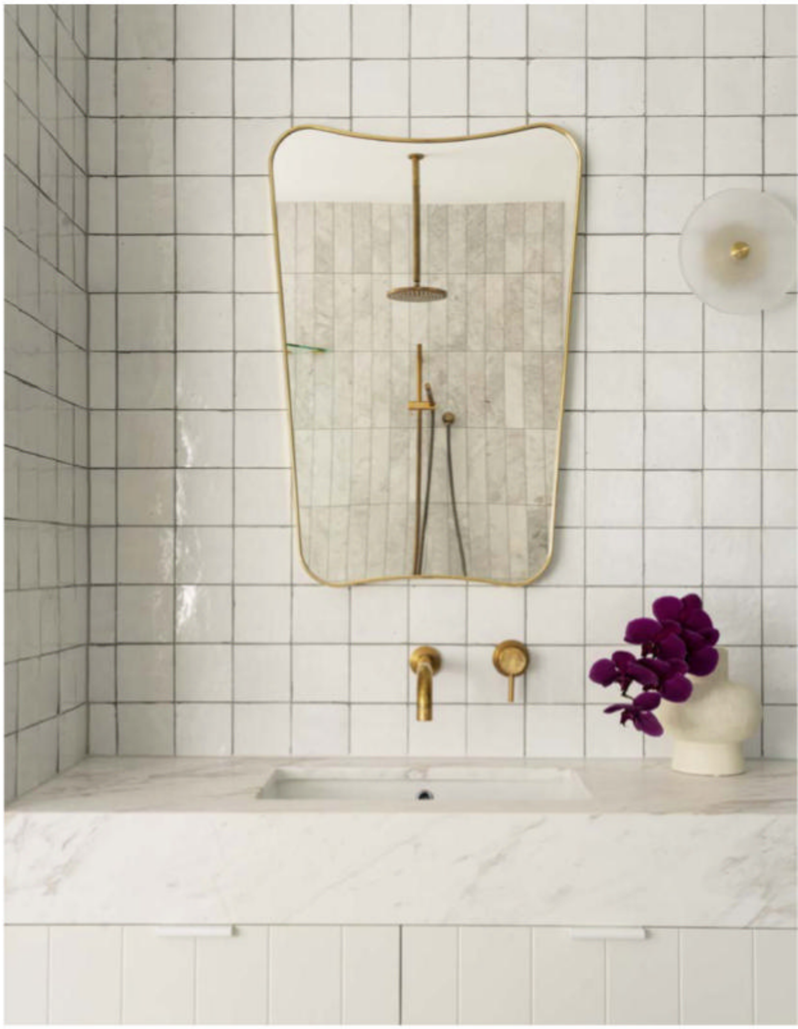
LIGHTING 'Coral' wall light, Søktas.

CURTAINS Unique Fabrics 'Bliss' in Snow, Thimble and Co.

Sense of *nostalgia*

A REFINED YET RELAXED ENSUITE PAYS HOMAGE TO THE PAST WITH THOUGHTFUL DETAILING.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Mitchell Kemp*



A contemporary interpretation of traditional Queenslander features, this luxurious ensuite in a Brisbane cottage flows seamlessly from the main bedroom, with timber screening to delineate zones and maintain a sense of privacy. With the aim of creating a sense of harmony and continuity with the existing home, designer Christopher Gyzemyter of CG Design Studio sourced refined finishes with warm tones. "I love the softness and warmth generated by the sheer curtains, use of aged brass and handmade elements," he says. The V-groove cladding on the vanity further reinforces the connection with the original home.

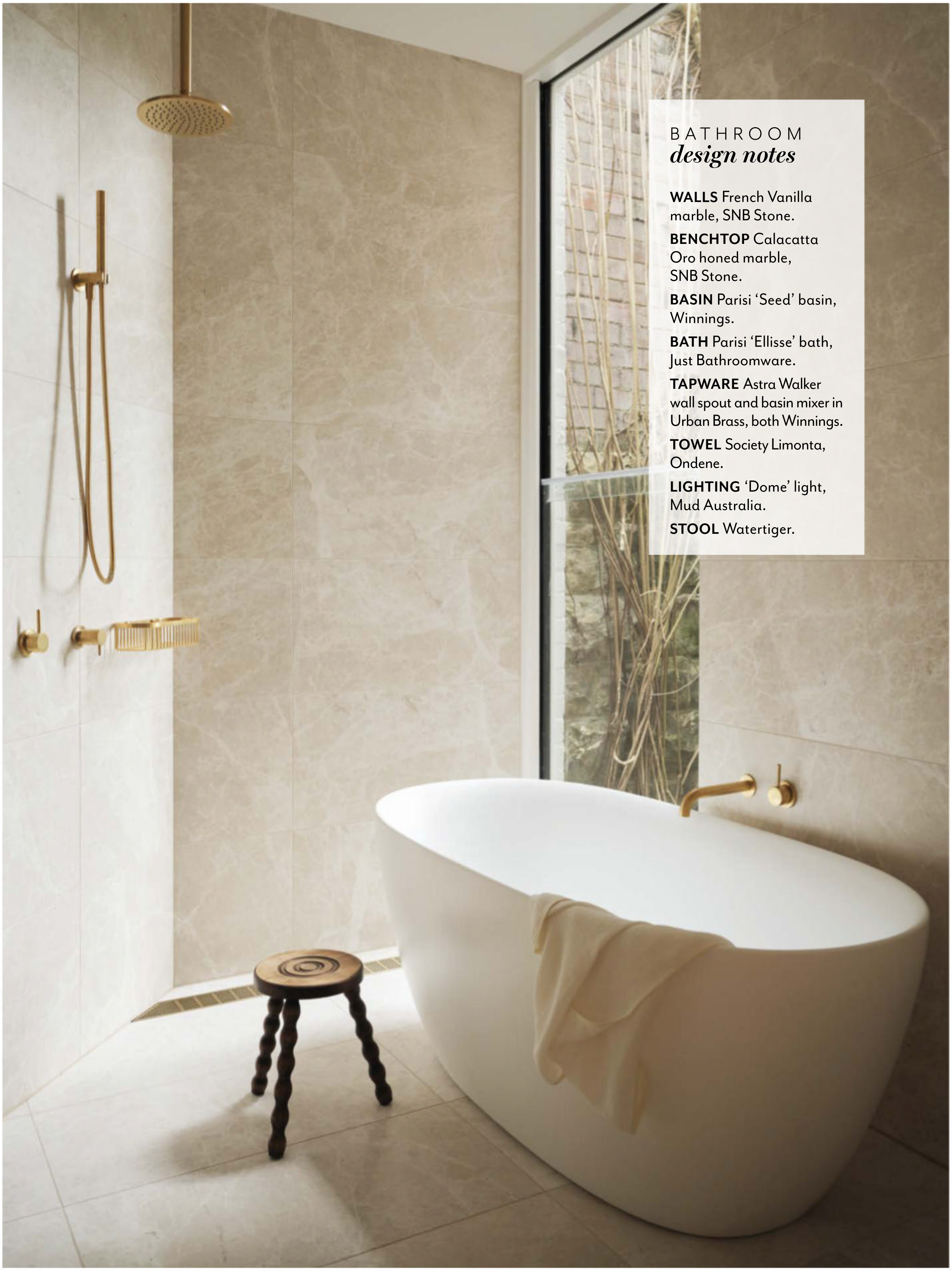
CG Design Studio: cgdesignstudio.com.au.
Natural Lifestyle Homes: nlhomes.com.au.

Secret *sanctuary*

QUIET LUXURY REIGNS SUPREME IN THIS SLEEK ENSUITE WITH ITS WARM, NEUTRAL PALETTE AND LUMINOUS ORGANIC FINISHES.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | STYLING *Claire Delmar* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Dave Wheeler*

A bathroom that felt like a luxurious cave was the owner's wish for an ensuite in a 1907 three-storey harbourside home in Sydney. To bring that vision to life, architectural designer Jade Young of Georgina Wilson Associates worked her magic to draw light into the semi-underground space nestled against a sandstone cliff looking out to the harbour. "We wanted to reflect the local landscape in all aspects of the house including the bathroom, choosing natural stones in neutral tones that reflect the light-filled, airy interior," says Georgina. Every surface was considered to create an atmosphere that is refined yet in harmony with its setting. *Georgina Wilson Associates: georginawilsonassociates.com*.



BATHROOM *design notes*

WALLS French Vanilla marble, SNB Stone.

BENCHTOP Calacatta Oro honed marble, SNB Stone.

BASIN Parisi 'Seed' basin, Winnings.

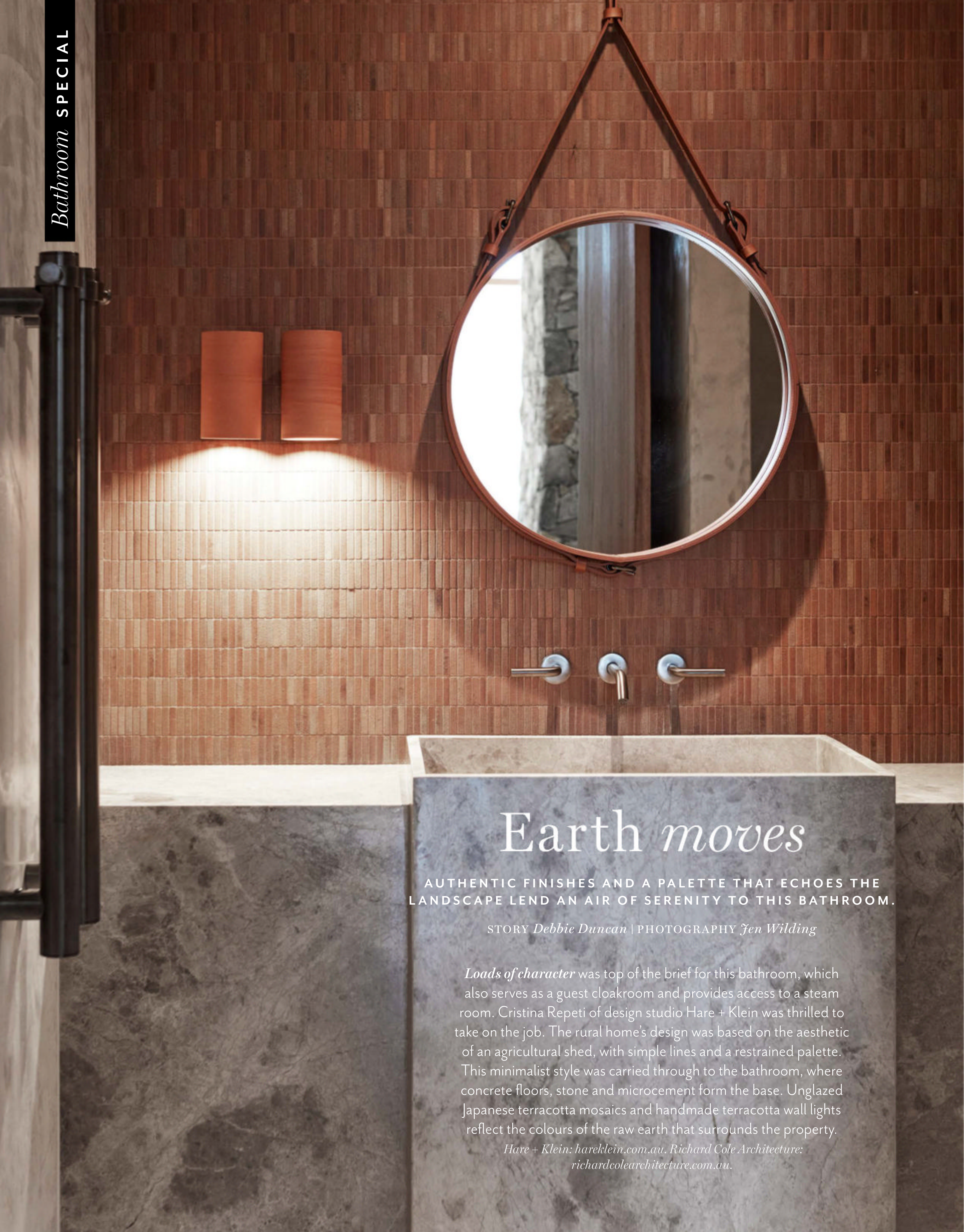
BATH Parisi 'Ellisse' bath, Just Bathroomware.

TAPWARE Astra Walker wall spout and basin mixer in Urban Brass, both Winnings.

TOWEL Society Limonta, Ondene.

LIGHTING 'Dome' light, Mud Australia.

STOOL Watertiger.



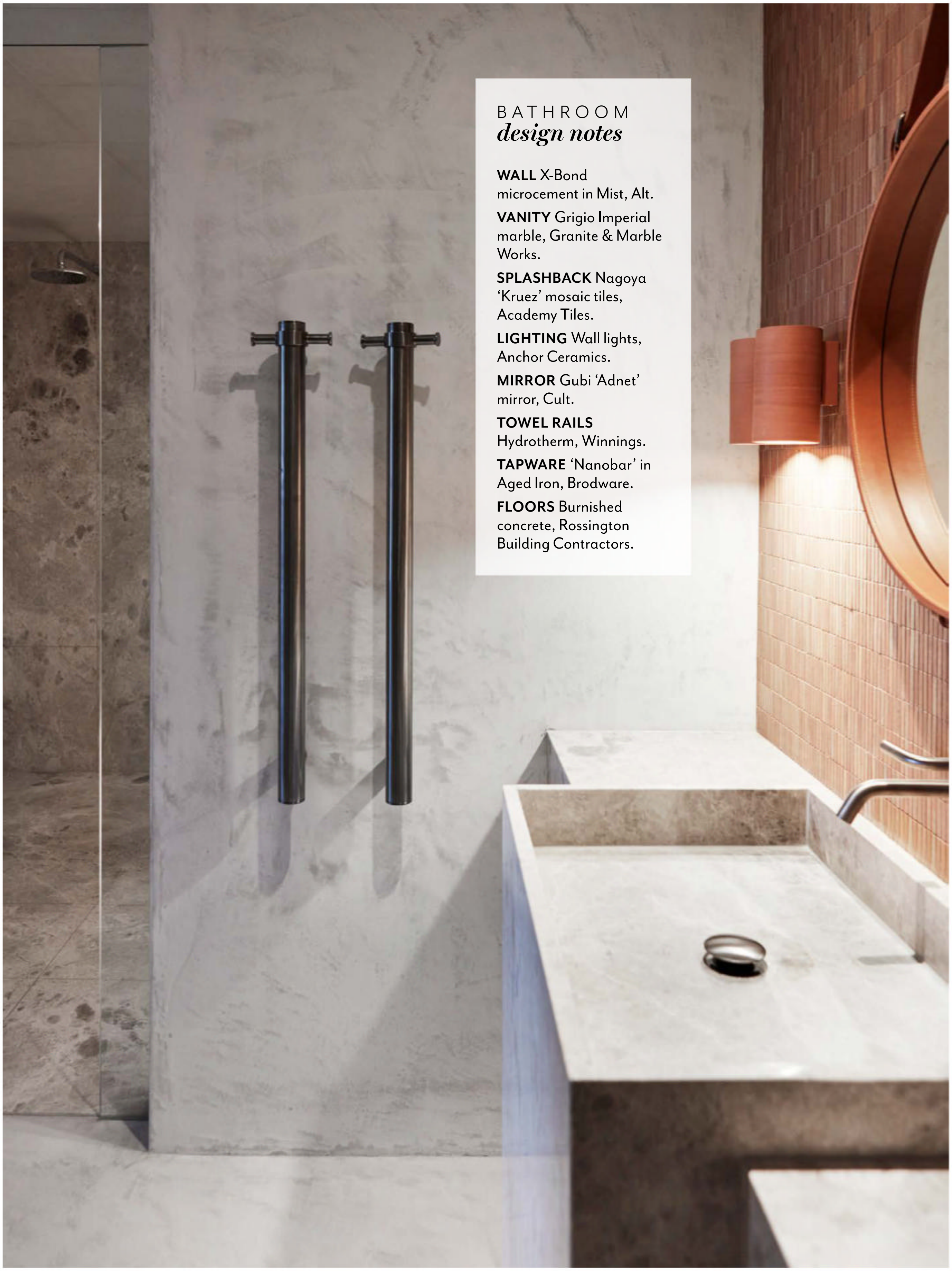
Earth *moves*

AUTHENTIC FINISHES AND A PALETTE THAT ECHOES THE LANDSCAPE LEND AN AIR OF SERENITY TO THIS BATHROOM.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Jen Wilding*

Loads of character was top of the brief for this bathroom, which also serves as a guest cloakroom and provides access to a steam room. Cristina Repeti of design studio Hare + Klein was thrilled to take on the job. The rural home's design was based on the aesthetic of an agricultural shed, with simple lines and a restrained palette. This minimalist style was carried through to the bathroom, where concrete floors, stone and microcement form the base. Unglazed Japanese terracotta mosaics and handmade terracotta wall lights reflect the colours of the raw earth that surrounds the property.

Hare + Klein: hareklein.com.au. Richard Cole Architecture: richardcolearchitecture.com.au.



BATHROOM *design notes*

WALL X-Bond microcement in Mist, Alt.

VANITY Grigio Imperial marble, Granite & Marble Works.

SPLASHBACK Nagoya 'Kruez' mosaic tiles, Academy Tiles.

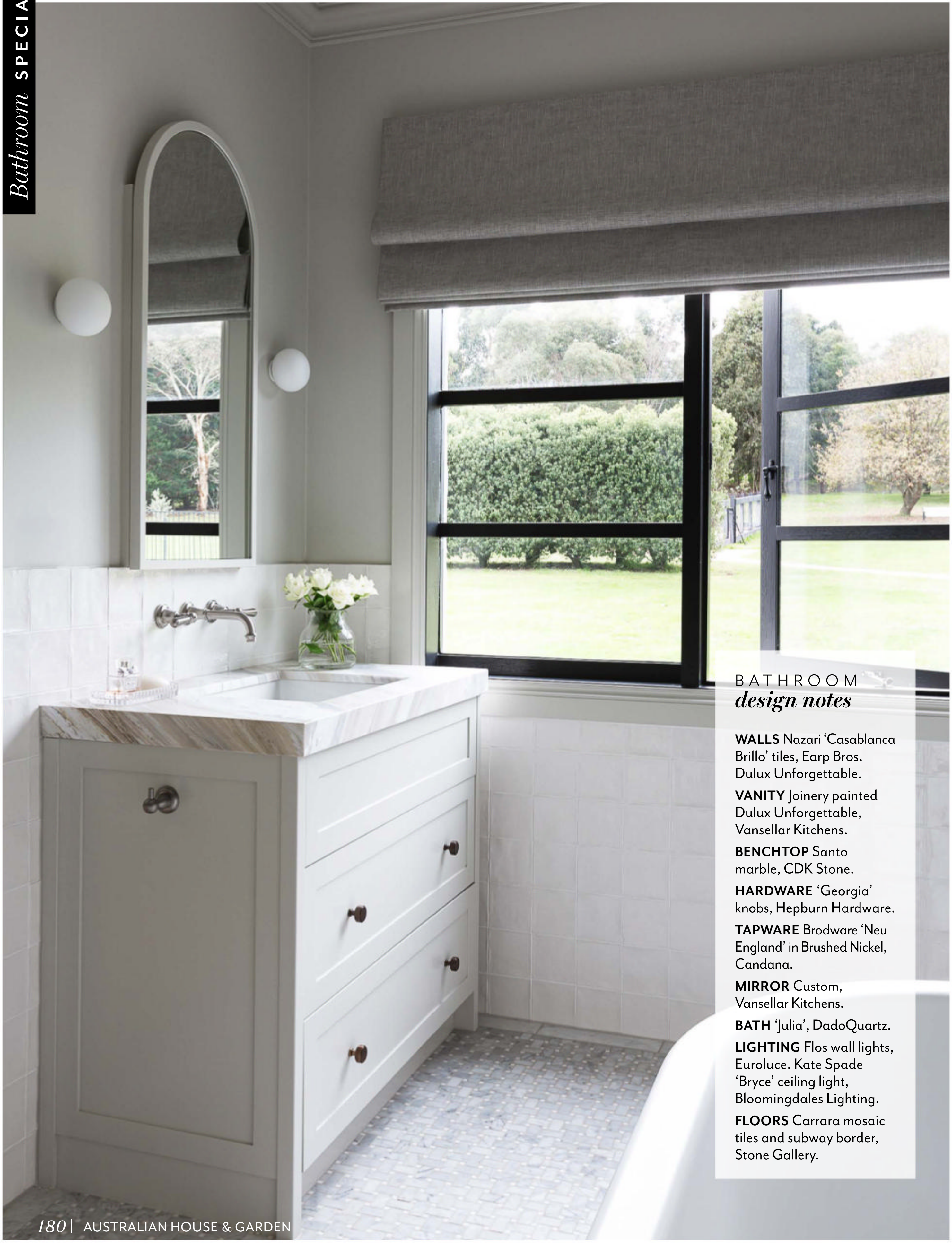
LIGHTING Wall lights, Anchor Ceramics.

MIRROR Gubi 'Adnet' mirror, Cult.

TOWEL RAILS Hydrotherm, Winnings.

TAPWARE 'Nanobar' in Aged Iron, Brodware.

FLOORS Burnished concrete, Rossington Building Contractors.



BATHROOM
design notes

WALLS Nazari 'Casablanca Brillo' tiles, Earp Bros. Dulux Unforgettable.

VANITY Joinery painted Dulux Unforgettable, Vansellar Kitchens.

BENCHTOP Santo marble, CDK Stone.

HARDWARE 'Georgia' knobs, Hepburn Hardware.

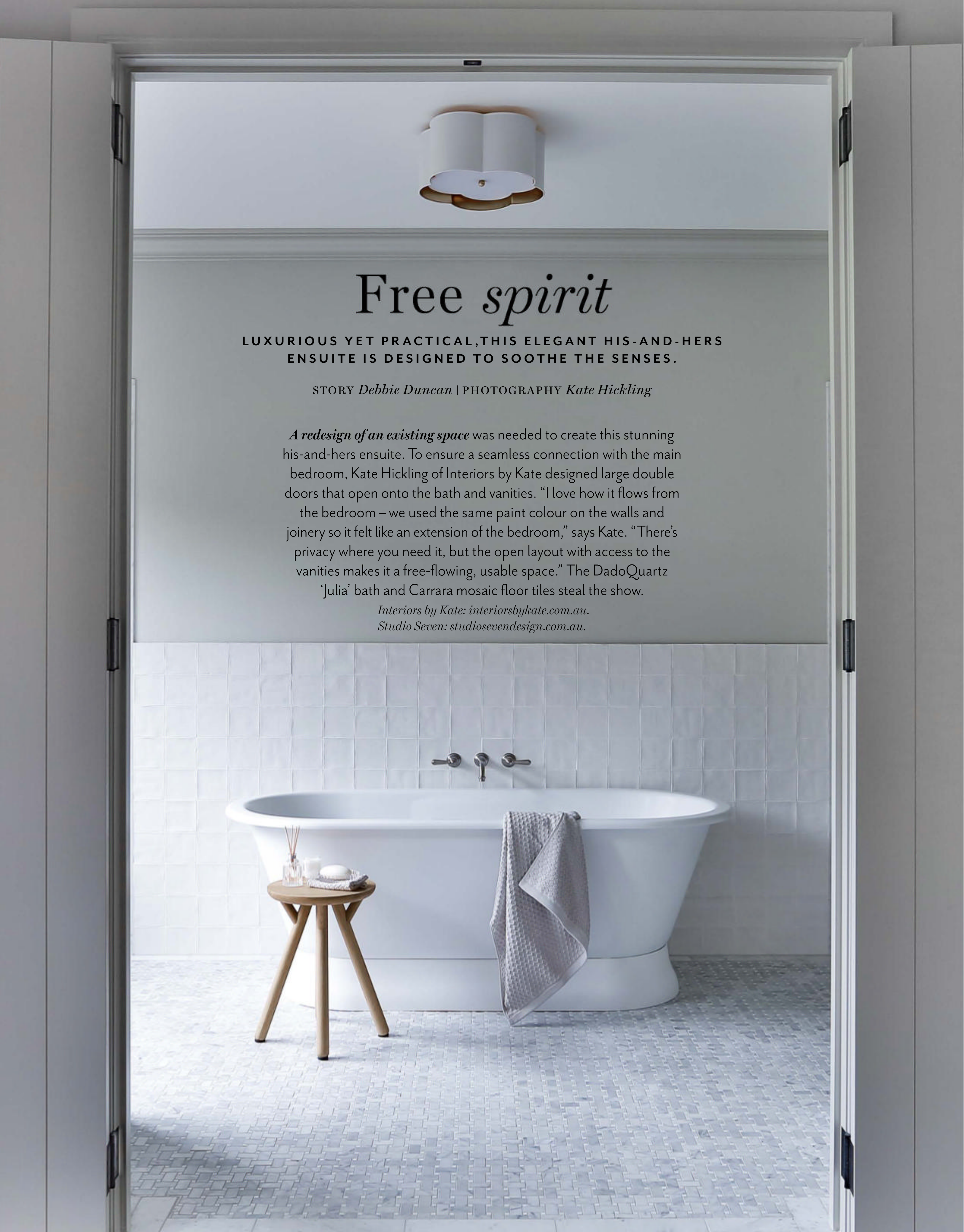
TAPWARE Brodware 'Neu England' in Brushed Nickel, Candana.

MIRROR Custom, Vansellar Kitchens.

BATH 'Julia', DadoQuartz.

LIGHTING Flos wall lights, Euroluce. Kate Spade 'Bryce' ceiling light, Bloomingdales Lighting.

FLOORS Carrara mosaic tiles and subway border, Stone Gallery.



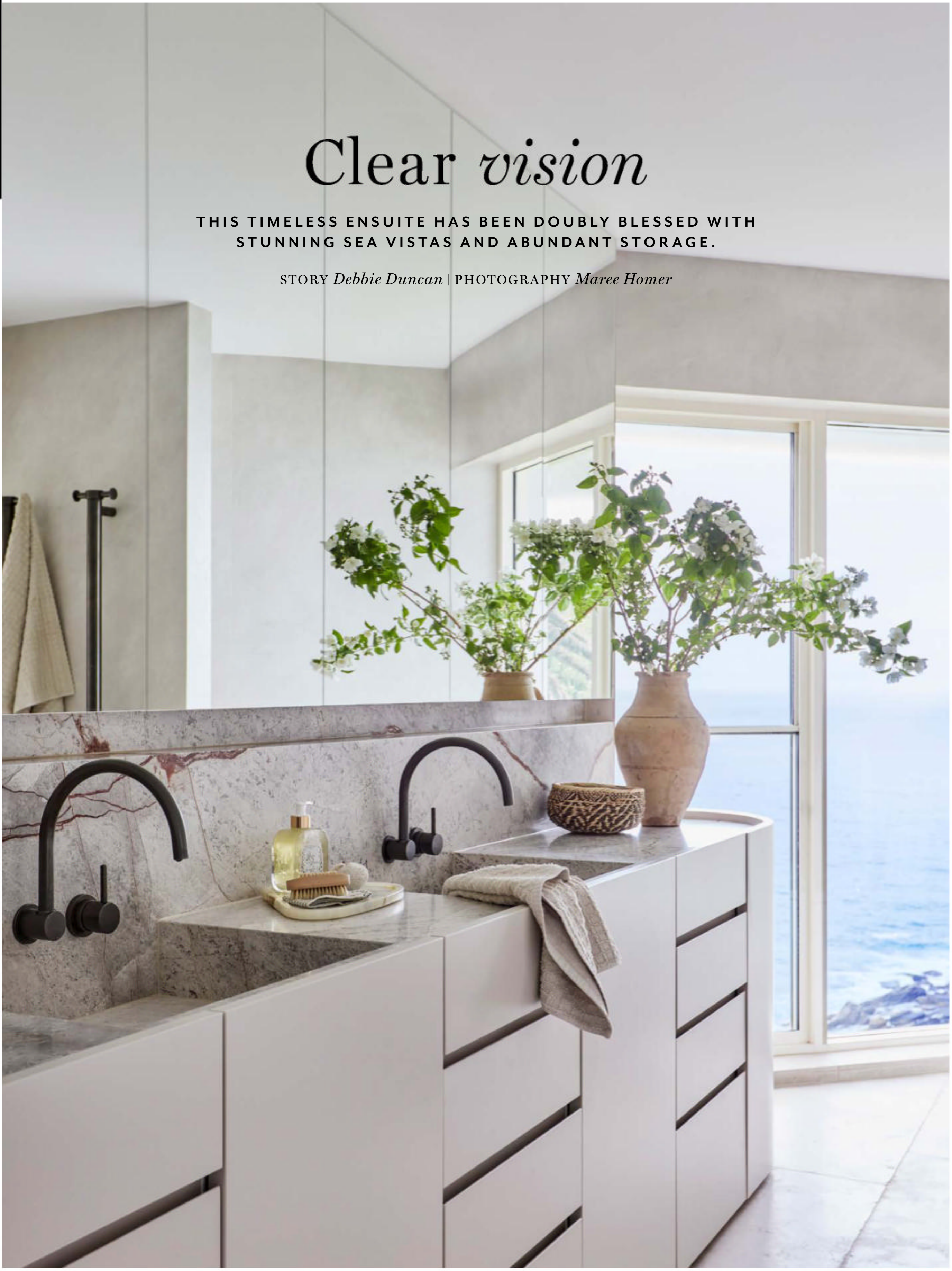
Free *spirit*

LUXURIOUS YET PRACTICAL,THIS ELEGANT HIS-AND-HERS ENSUITE IS DESIGNED TO SOOTHE THE SENSES.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Kate Hickling*

A redesign of an existing space was needed to create this stunning his-and-hers ensuite. To ensure a seamless connection with the main bedroom, Kate Hickling of Interiors by Kate designed large double doors that open onto the bath and vanities. "I love how it flows from the bedroom – we used the same paint colour on the walls and joinery so it felt like an extension of the bedroom," says Kate. "There's privacy where you need it, but the open layout with access to the vanities makes it a free-flowing, usable space." The DadoQuartz 'Julia' bath and Carrara mosaic floor tiles steal the show.

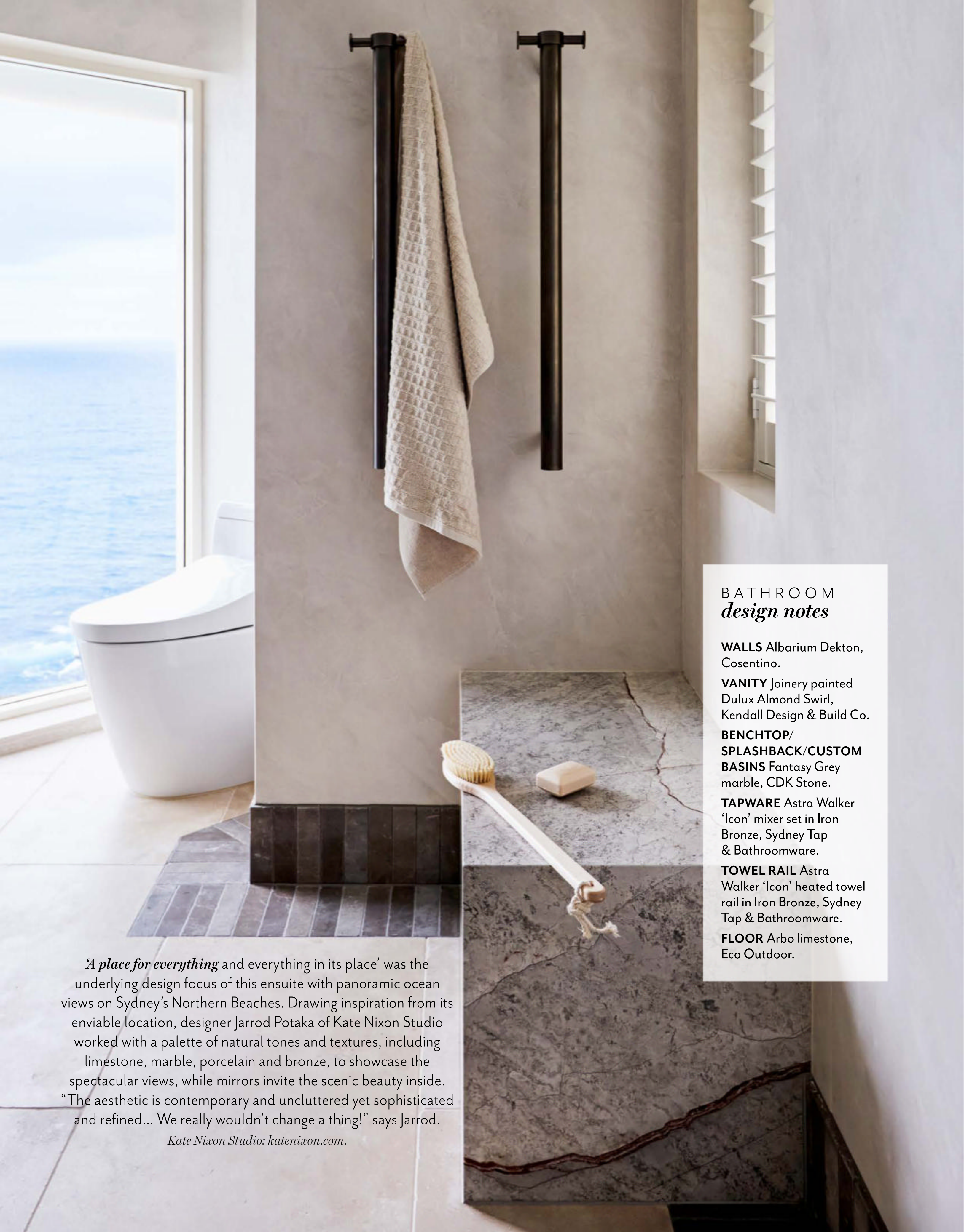
Interiors by Kate: interiorsbykate.com.au.
Studio Seven: studiosevendesign.com.au.



Clear *vision*

THIS TIMELESS ENSUITE HAS BEEN DOUBLY BLESSED WITH STUNNING SEA VISTAS AND ABUNDANT STORAGE.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Maree Homer*



BATHROOM *design notes*

WALLS Albarium Dekton, Cosentino.

VANITY Joinery painted Dulux Almond Swirl, Kendall Design & Build Co.

BENCHTOP/ SPLASHBACK/CUSTOM BASINS Fantasy Grey marble, CDK Stone.

TAPWARE Astra Walker 'Icon' mixer set in Iron Bronze, Sydney Tap & Bathroomware.

TOWEL RAIL Astra Walker 'Icon' heated towel rail in Iron Bronze, Sydney Tap & Bathroomware.

FLOOR Arbo limestone, Eco Outdoor.

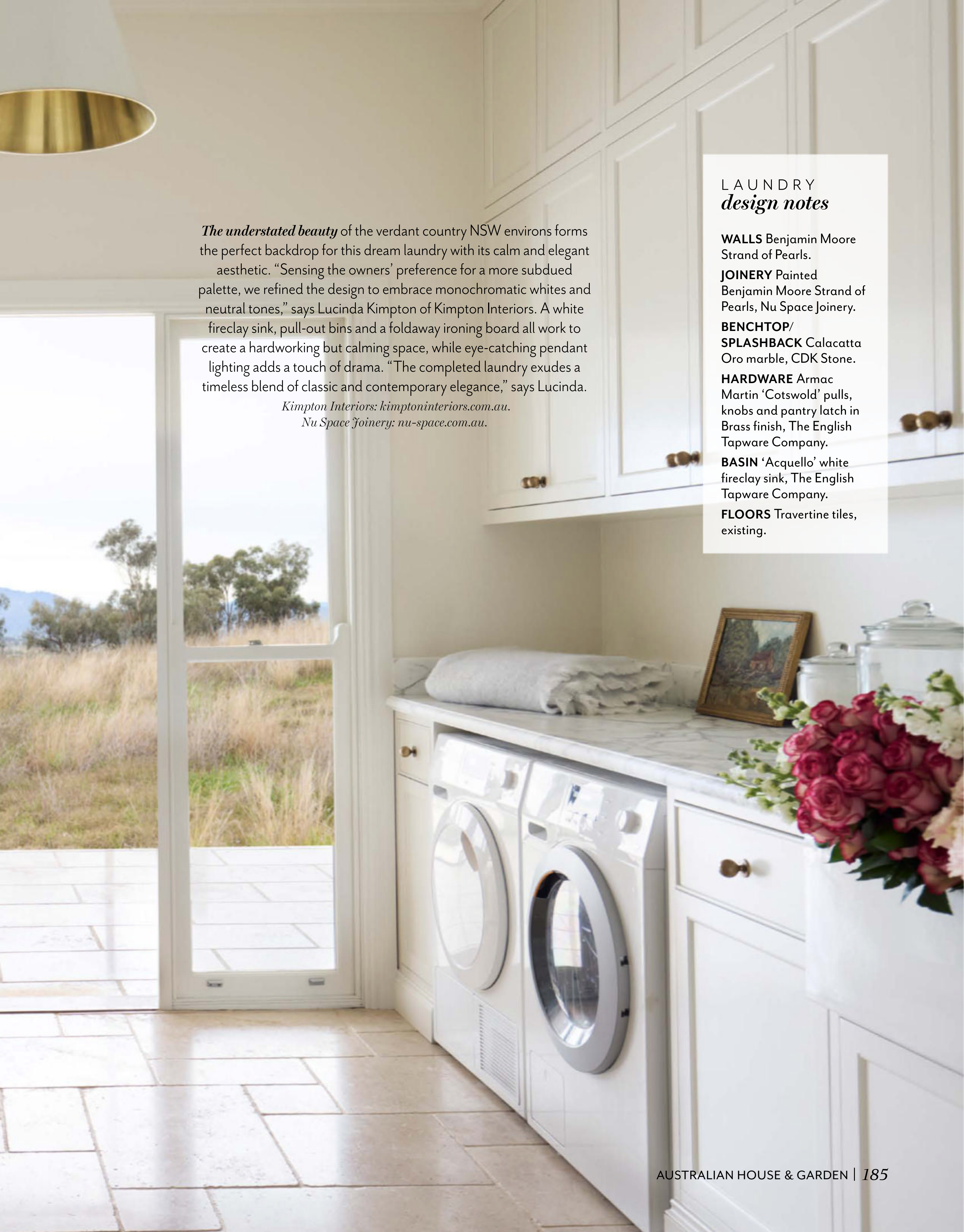
'A place for everything and everything in its place' was the underlying design focus of this ensuite with panoramic ocean views on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Drawing inspiration from its enviable location, designer Jarrod Potaka of Kate Nixon Studio worked with a palette of natural tones and textures, including limestone, marble, porcelain and bronze, to showcase the spectacular views, while mirrors invite the scenic beauty inside. "The aesthetic is contemporary and uncluttered yet sophisticated and refined… We really wouldn't change a thing!" says Jarrod.

Kate Nixon Studio: katenixon.com.

View *point*

A REFRESHING, TIMELESS PALETTE AND CALMING VIEW IMBUE THIS LAUNDRY WITH A SENSE OF HARMONY.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



The understated beauty of the verdant country NSW environs forms the perfect backdrop for this dream laundry with its calm and elegant aesthetic. "Sensing the owners' preference for a more subdued palette, we refined the design to embrace monochromatic whites and neutral tones," says Lucinda Kimpton of Kimpton Interiors. A white fireclay sink, pull-out bins and a foldaway ironing board all work to create a hardworking but calming space, while eye-catching pendant lighting adds a touch of drama. "The completed laundry exudes a timeless blend of classic and contemporary elegance," says Lucinda.

Kimpton Interiors: kimptoninteriors.com.au.
Nu Space Joinery: nu-space.com.au.

LAUNDRY *design notes*

WALLS Benjamin Moore Strand of Pearls.

JOINERY Painted Benjamin Moore Strand of Pearls, Nu Space Joinery.

BENCHTOP/ SPLASHBACK Calacatta Oro marble, CDK Stone.

HARDWARE Armac Martin 'Cotswold' pulls, knobs and pantry latch in Brass finish, The English Tapware Company.

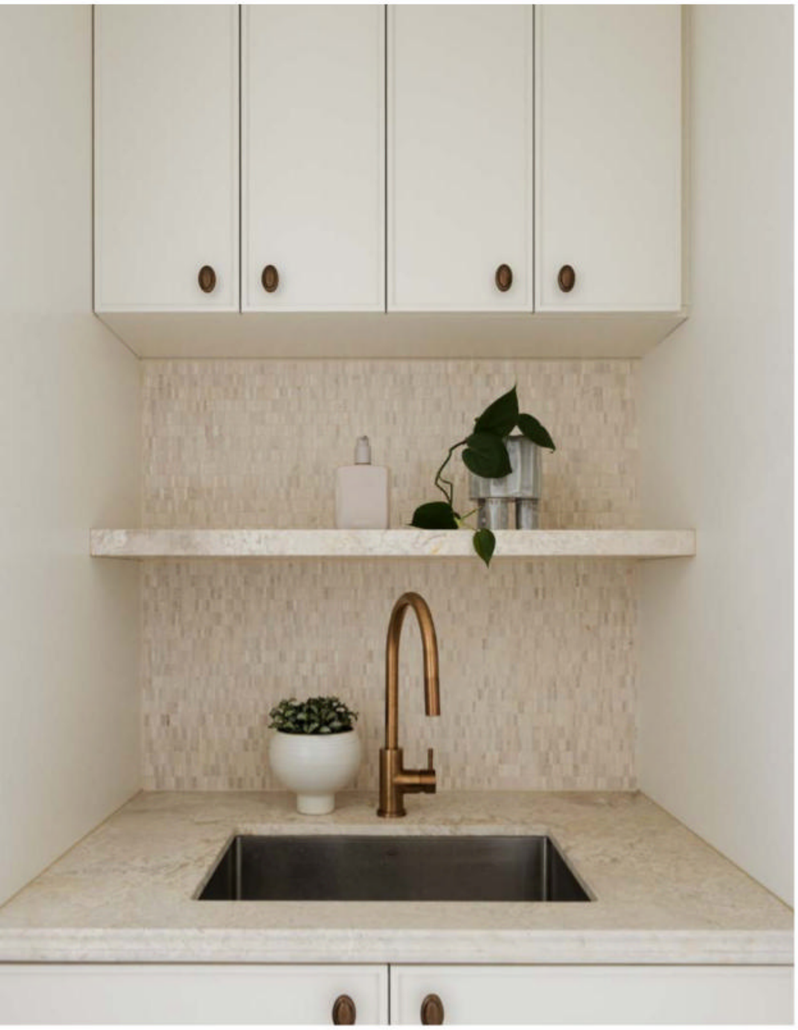
BASIN 'Acquello' white fireclay sink, The English Tapware Company.

FLOORS Travertine tiles, existing.

Set in *stone*

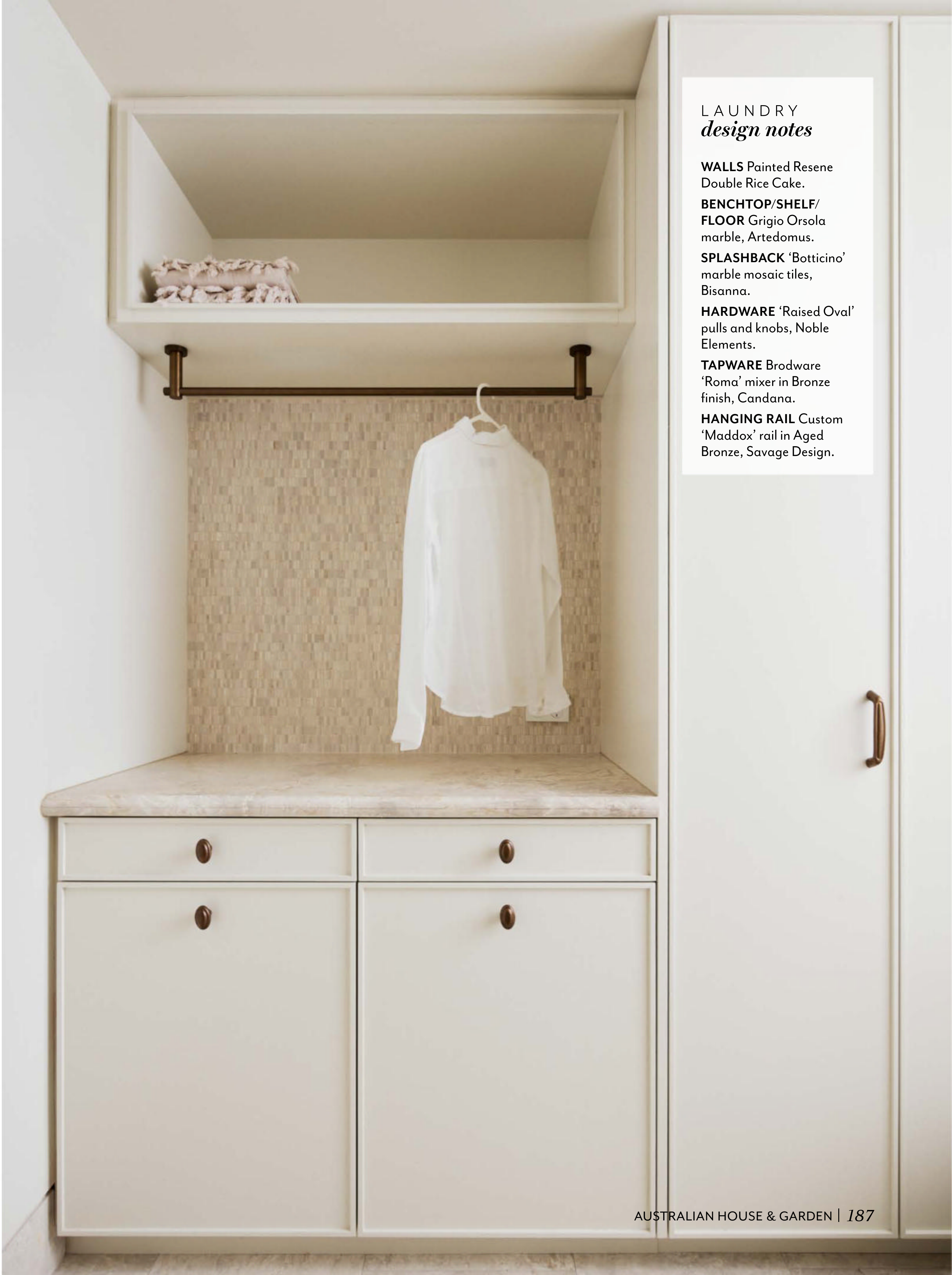
WITH STYLE AND PRACTICALITY IN SPADES, THIS SOPHISTICATED LAUNDRY IS A WELCOMING SPACE.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | STYLING *Kirsten Bookallil* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Anson Smart*



A rarely used guest bathroom made way for this exquisite, much-needed laundry in a Sydney apartment. "The laundry cohesively blends in with the aesthetic of the home with a touch of elegance and a feeling of sophistication. A very welcoming space," says designer Stephanie Nadel of Marylou Sobel Interior Design. Visual interest, texture and cohesion were achieved through using different formats of Grigio Orsola marble for benchtops and shelving as well as the skirting and floor.

Marylou Sobel Interior Design: marylousobel.com.au. Critharis: critharis.com.



LAUNDRY *design notes*

WALLS Painted Resene Double Rice Cake.

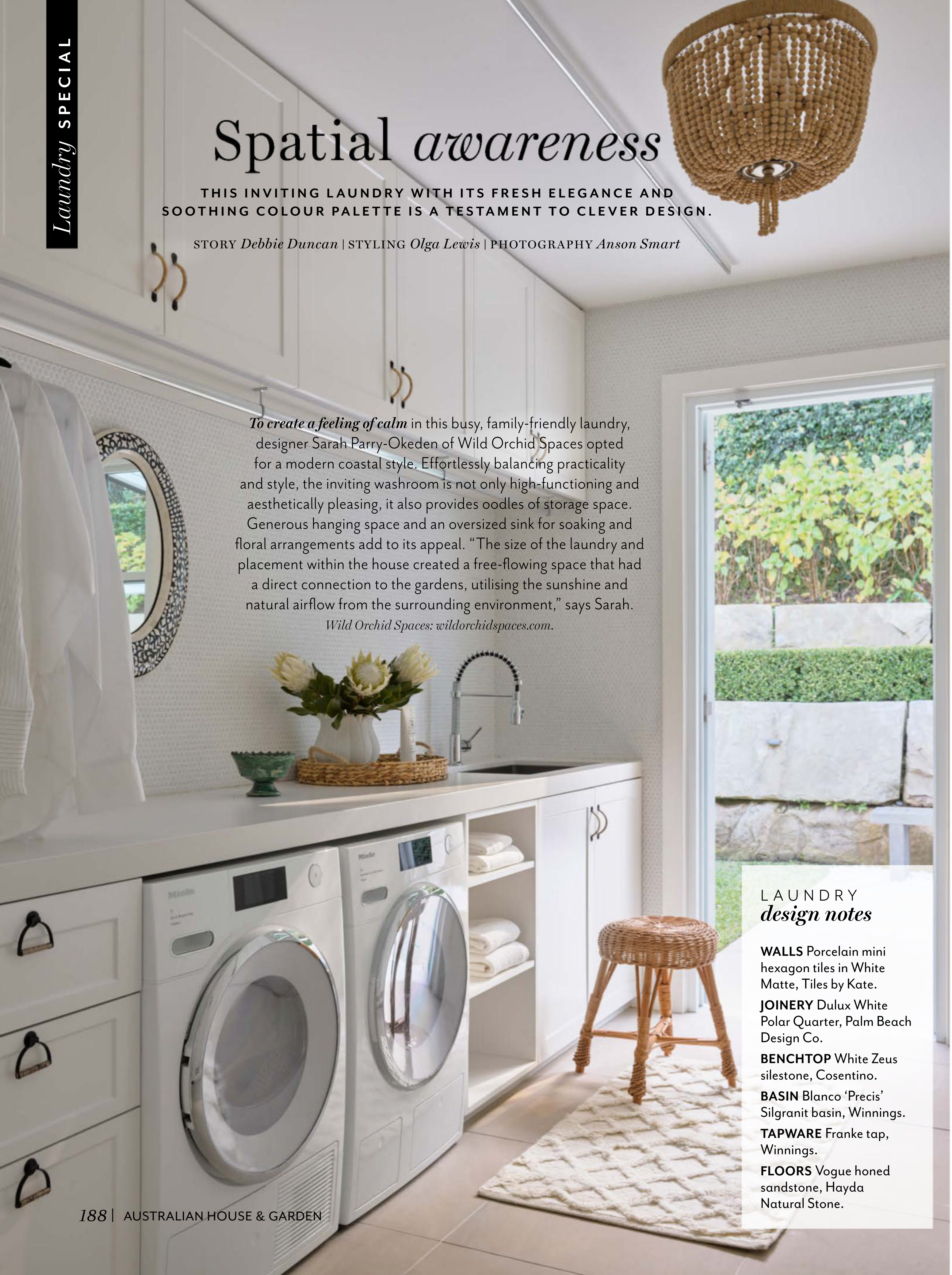
BENCHTOP/SHELF/ FLOOR Grigio Orsola marble, Artedomus.

SPLASHBACK 'Botticino' marble mosaic tiles, Bisanna.

HARDWARE 'Raised Oval' pulls and knobs, Noble Elements.

TAPWARE Brodware 'Roma' mixer in Bronze finish, Candana.

HANGING RAIL Custom 'Maddox' rail in Aged Bronze, Savage Design.



Spatial *awareness*

THIS INVITING LAUNDRY WITH ITS FRESH ELEGANCE AND SOOTHING COLOUR PALETTE IS A TESTAMENT TO CLEVER DESIGN.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | STYLING *Olga Lewis* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Anson Smart*

To create a feeling of calm in this busy, family-friendly laundry, designer Sarah Parry-Okeden of Wild Orchid Spaces opted for a modern coastal style. Effortlessly balancing practicality and style, the inviting washroom is not only high-functioning and aesthetically pleasing, it also provides oodles of storage space. Generous hanging space and an oversized sink for soaking and floral arrangements add to its appeal. "The size of the laundry and placement within the house created a free-flowing space that had a direct connection to the gardens, utilising the sunshine and natural airflow from the surrounding environment," says Sarah.

Wild Orchid Spaces: wildorchidspaces.com.

LAUNDRY *design notes*

WALLS Porcelain mini hexagon tiles in White Matte, Tiles by Kate.

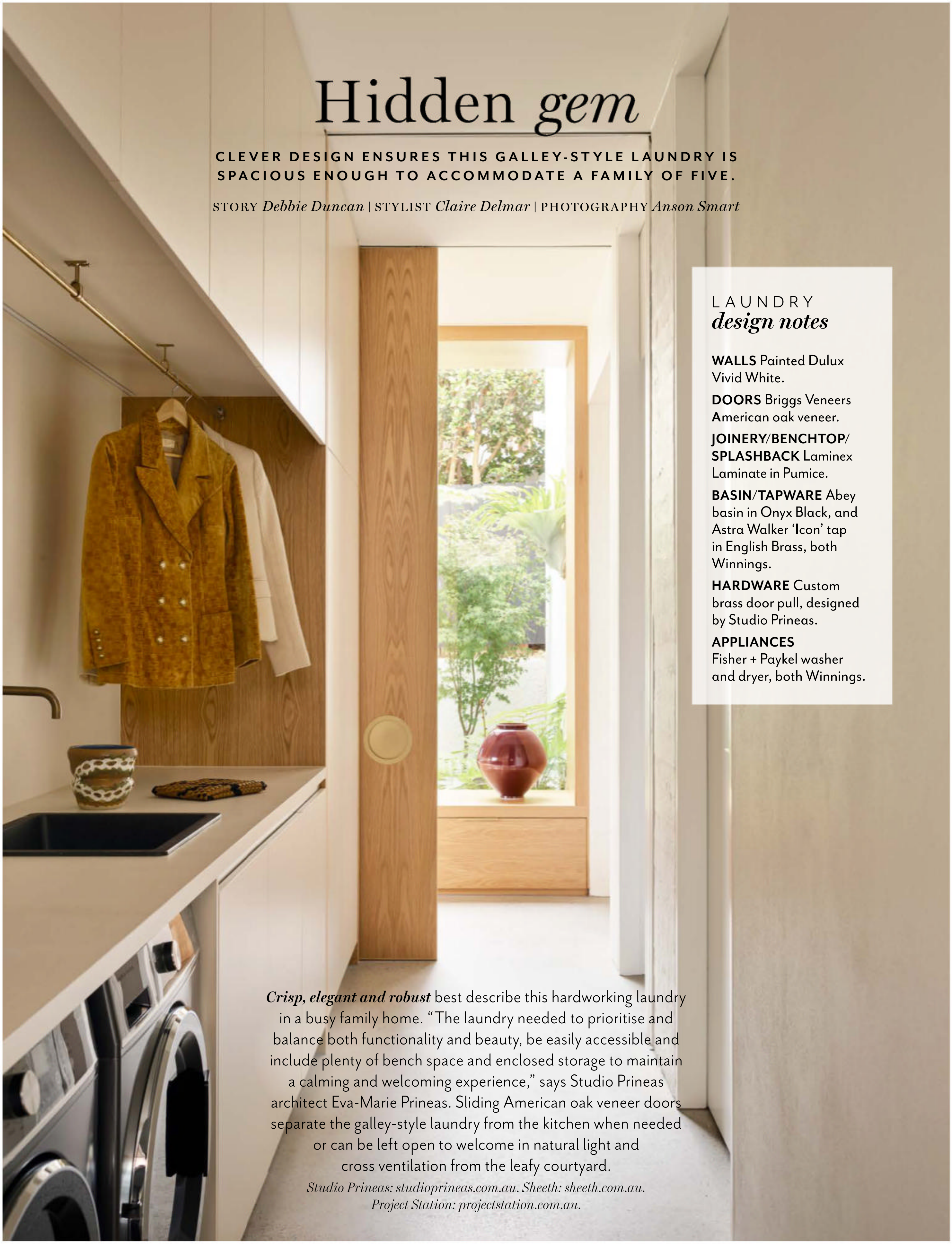
JOINERY Dulux White Polar Quarter, Palm Beach Design Co.

BENCHTOP White Zeus silestone, Cosentino.

BASIN Blanco 'Precis' Silgranit basin, Winnings.

TAPWARE Franke tap, Winnings.

FLOORS Vogue honed sandstone, Hayda Natural Stone.



Hidden *gem*

CLEVER DESIGN ENSURES THIS GALLEY-STYLE LAUNDRY IS SPACIOUS ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE A FAMILY OF FIVE.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | STYLIST *Claire Delmar* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Anson Smart*

LAUNDRY *design notes*

WALLS Painted Dulux Vivid White.

DOORS Briggs Veneers American oak veneer.

JOINERY/BENCHTOP/ SPLASHBACK Laminex Laminate in Pumice.

BASIN/TAPWARE Abey basin in Onyx Black, and Astra Walker 'Icon' tap in English Brass, both Winnings.

HARDWARE Custom brass door pull, designed by Studio Prineas.

APPLIANCES Fisher + Paykel washer and dryer, both Winnings.

Crisp, elegant and robust best describe this hardworking laundry in a busy family home. "The laundry needed to prioritise and balance both functionality and beauty, be easily accessible and include plenty of bench space and enclosed storage to maintain a calming and welcoming experience," says Studio Prineas architect Eva-Marie Prineas. Sliding American oak veneer doors separate the galley-style laundry from the kitchen when needed or can be left open to welcome in natural light and cross ventilation from the leafy courtyard.

Studio Prineas: studioprineas.com.au. Sheeth: sheeth.com.au. Project Station: projectstation.com.au.

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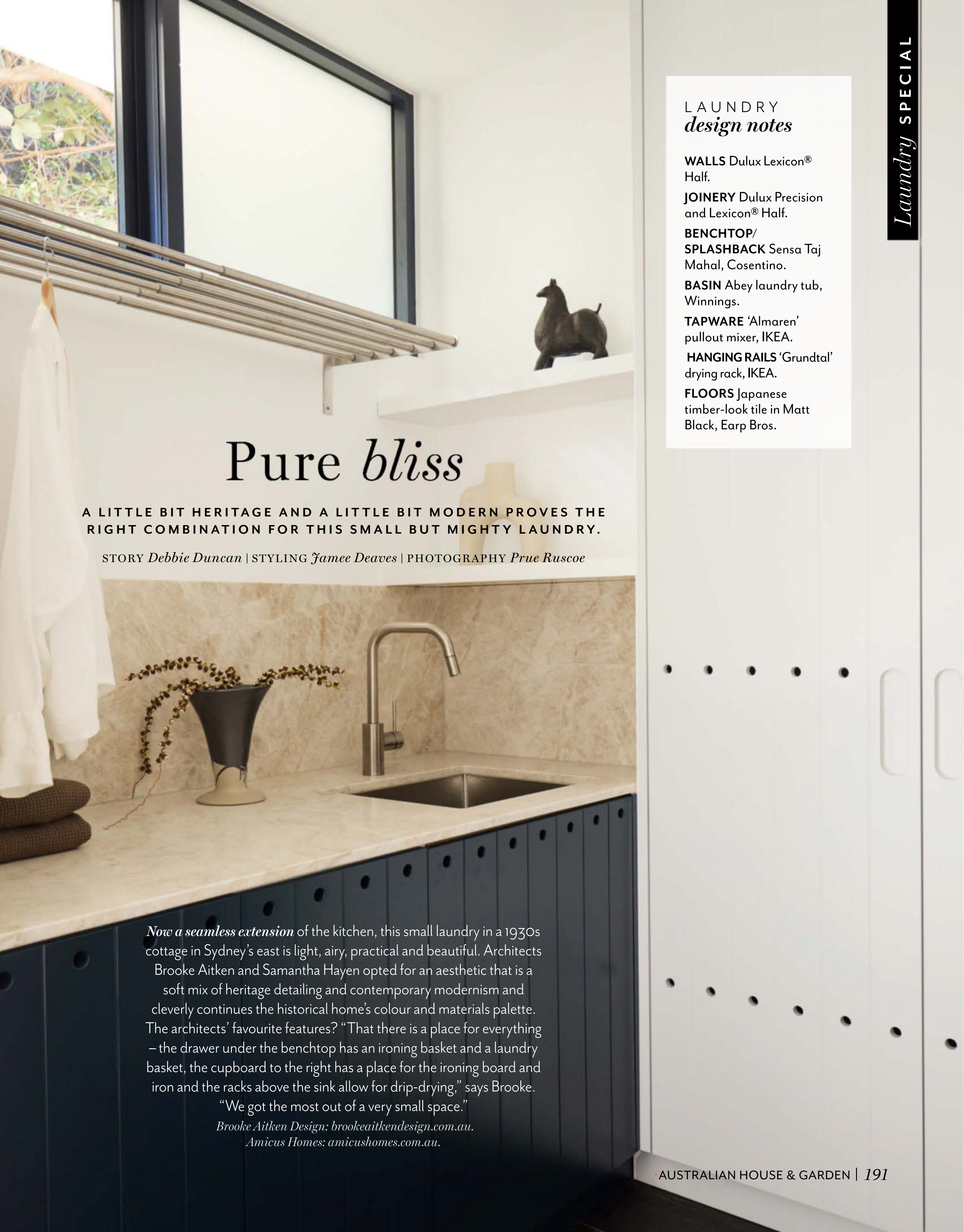

Pure *bliss*

A LITTLE BIT HERITAGE AND A LITTLE BIT MODERN PROVES THE RIGHT COMBINATION FOR THIS SMALL BUT MIGHTY LAUNDRY.

STORY *Debbie Duncan* | STYLING *Jamee Deaves* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*

Now a seamless extension of the kitchen, this small laundry in a 1930s cottage in Sydney's east is light, airy, practical and beautiful. Architects Brooke Aitken and Samantha Hayen opted for an aesthetic that is a soft mix of heritage detailing and contemporary modernism and cleverly continues the historical home's colour and materials palette. The architects' favourite features? "That there is a place for everything – the drawer under the benchtop has an ironing basket and a laundry basket, the cupboard to the right has a place for the ironing board and iron and the racks above the sink allow for drip-drying," says Brooke. "We got the most out of a very small space."

Brooke Aitken Design: brookeaitkendesign.com.au.
Amicus Homes: amicushomes.com.au.

LAUNDRY *design notes*

WALLS Dulux Lexicon® Half.

JOINERY Dulux Precision and Lexicon® Half.

BENCHTOP/ SPLASHBACK Sensa Taj Mahal, Cosentino.

BASIN Abey laundry tub, Winnings.

TAPWARE 'Almaren' pullout mixer, IKEA.

HANGING RAILS 'Grundtal' drying rack, IKEA.

FLOORS Japanese timber-look tile in Matt Black, Earp Bros.

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